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PM to Albright: Progress made in pullback talks

By DANNA HARMAN, EYE RODAN, MOHAMMED NABIS and news agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu headed last night to the US after telling US Secretary Madeleine Albright that he felt some progress had been made in talks with the Palestinians, particularly on the issue of a proposed nature reserve in the West Bank as part of a pullback agreement.

Netanyahu spoke to Albright by telephone before leaving for New York, where he is to participate in the opening of the United Nations General Assembly. He is scheduled to have lunch with Albright today and to address the assembly tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources said Palestinian Authority Local Government Minister Saeb Erekat, who has led talks with Israel for the last two years, has

asked to be relieved of his post as chief of the Palestinian negotiating team.

Erekat reportedly submitted a letter of resignation to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat on Monday, saying he wanted to concentrate on his cabinet position.

Palestinian sources said Erekat is angry that he has been side-stepped by Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurei. A senior PA source close to

Arafat said, however, that Erekat has not asked to be relieved of his duties. Erekat could not be reached for comment.

In August 1993, Erekat was among several Palestinian negotiators from the territories who threatened to resign amid signs they were being bypassed by top PLO officials.

They were dissuaded from doing so by Arafat, just weeks before secret diplomacy with Israeli lead-

ers, led by Qurei, bore fruit in the Oslo Agreement.

Netanyahu - who is traveling with his aide Yitzhak Molcho, political adviser Uzi Arad, and Dan Naveh, the cabinet secretary - is also scheduled to hold some 20 meetings with world leaders during his five-day visit in New York, including the foreign ministers of Britain, Germany, Austria, Russia, Nigeria, China, Mauritania and Egypt.

In their conversation yesterday, Netanyahu told Albright there had been progress during US special envoy Dennis Ross's visit last week on the matter of the three percent of West Bank land to be designated as a nature reserve.

Netanyahu added, however, that no redeployment deal would be closed as long as the Palestinians do not stand up to their commitments regarding security and the abrogation of parts of the

Palestinian charter.

Netanyahu may meet with Arafat while in New York, but no date has been set. Arafat is also expected to address the assembly.

Communications Director David Bar-Ilan said Netanyahu would "talk about the peace process and the need for the Palestinians to live up to commitments" during his address to the General Assembly.

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President Bill Clinton meets with Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi yesterday at Clinton's hotel in New York. (Reuters)

Clinton foes: Impeachment probe within 2 weeks

WASHINGTON (AP) - Republicans intend to bring a formal inquiry of impeachment to the House floor within the next two weeks, party sources said yesterday, as Democrats renewed talk of a lesser sanction for President Bill Clinton, perhaps a censure along with a financial penalty.

The maneuvering in Congress unfolded as the White House, after digesting nearly 3,200 newly released pages of Kenneth Starr's evidence, lashed out at the independent counsel for ignoring "all reasonable standards of fair-

ness in preparing and drafting" his highly publicized report to lawmakers citing evidence of impeachable offenses.

Embarrassing but not new, Page 2
Europeans fear for US democracy, Page 3

In particular, Clinton's lawyers wrote the Judiciary Committee contending that Starr's report included 150 pages of "gratuitous

and graphic sexual details."

At the same time, attorneys David Kendall and Charles Ruff wrote, Starr excluded this statement that Monica Lewinsky made before the grand jury: "No one ever asked me to lie and I was never promised a job for my silence."

Clinton appeared yesterday to prefer sticking to his job as president and letting the impeachment politics play out in Washington.

Meeting in New York with Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, Clinton told reporters, "I don't have any contribution to

make" to the discussion of the broadcast videotape of his grand jury testimony.

Clinton claimed to be avoiding immersing himself in the flood of material from independent counsel Kenneth Starr made public this week by the House Judiciary Committee.

"Believe it or not, I haven't read the [Starr] report or my lawyers' replies. I think it's important that I focus on what I'm doing for the American people," Clinton said.

See CLINTON, Page 15

Generali won't honor Holocaust accord

By DAVID HARRIS

Italy's largest insurer, Assicurazioni Generali, is refusing to honor a \$100 million agreement to compensate families of Holocaust victims who were policyholders with the company.

This latest move in a two-year battle between Generali and family members was reported yesterday in *The Wall Street Journal*.

The Trieste-based company's shares dropped 4.7 percent on the Milan Stock Exchange following news of the refusal to make payments, on which it had signed a letter of intent on August 19.

Earlier this year the company handed over to Yad Vashem the names of 340,000 policyholders for research purposes only, but earlier this month said 100,000 policies remain unclaimed.

"They must publish the 100,000 names," MK Michael Kleiner

(Geshet) demanded last night. Kleiner has led the campaign against Generali, which last year purchased Migdal Insurance from Bank Leumi.

"The government must put Generali's shares [in Migdal] in escrow," he said.

The shares must be frozen until the names are published and it has been determined how many of the policyholders' family members are still alive, Kleiner said.

Company spokesman Matteo Fabiani told the AP news agency yesterday that talks on the \$100m. payment broke down two weeks ago. He blamed the impasse on US insurance commissioners and families, saying they had not lived up to the agreement.

When this story was first revealed by *The Jerusalem Post* two years ago, Generali said it was not liable for policies in Eastern Europe dating back to the war, but rather the communist regimes should pay because they seized Generali's assets.

However, since then, the company initially agreed with the Knesset to the establishment of a \$12m. fund for ex gratia payments to families and later the \$100m. package.

South African Army enters Lesotho

By ANDREW SELSKY

MASERU, Lesotho (AP) - South African soldiers rumbled into this mountain kingdom at dawn yesterday to quell weeks of anarchy. They met unexpected resistance, and at least 10 soldiers and five civilians died in heavy fighting.

The South Africans secured military bases and the royal palace, but fierce battles with rebellious Lesotho soldiers persisted throughout the day.

A senior South African officer said that at least 10 South African soldiers died in a firefight outside Makonyane barracks just northeast of the capital, Maseru.

Military officials in Pretoria reported earlier that five soldiers died in the fighting in Lesotho. It was not known if those deaths were in addition to the casualties at the barracks.

At least nine soldiers were reported wounded.

In addition, the bodies of five Lesotho citizens were brought to the capital's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which also treated 54 people for bullet wounds.

At the border, supporters of the rebel troops set a barricade afire, and taunted the South Africans as they crossed into Lesotho, bringing attack helicopters, mortar units and armored personnel carriers.

The action - South Africa's first major post-apartheid military intervention - follows weeks of opposition party demonstrations over allegations of election-rigging and an army rebellion that effectively paralyzed the government.

Lesotho, an impoverished kingdom with a population of 2 million people, is surrounded by South African territory and is dependent on its neighbor's economy. The intervention follows fruitless efforts by South African mediators over the weekend to bring the government and opponents together in talks.

Believing a coup was imminent, Lesotho Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili called on regional powers to intervene, said Mangosuthu Buthelezi, South Africa's home affairs minister.

Two soldiers die in Lebanon

Vehicle plunges 300m. off cliff

By DAVID RUDGE

Two IDF soldiers were killed when their armored personnel carrier plunged 300 meters down a cliff in the security zone and two other soldiers were moderately wounded in separate accidents in the region over Rosh Hashana.

Those killed were Sgt. Eran Ariel, 19, from Jerusalem and Sgt. Omer Eshed, 19, from Kfar Sava, both paratroopers.

Ariel is to be buried on Mt. Herzl at 2 p.m.; Eshed is to be buried at the Kfar Sava Military Cemetery at 4.

The army has launched inquiries into the incidents, which occurred in the space of a few hours of one another in different parts of the zone and along the northern border.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz visited a base in the North early yesterday to receive a briefing on the accident involving



Sgt. Eran Ariel



Sgt. Omer Eshed (IDF Spokesman)

the APC and the subsequent rescue efforts.

The incident itself occurred around 11:30 p.m. on Monday while IDF troops were on an operational mission in the eastern sector of the security zone, in the Beaufort Castle region.

Two APCs had apparently taken troops to a spot in the area to carry out their mission there

and were returning when one of them reversed and careened over the cliff, crashing 300 meters down into the Litani River.

The driver of the other APC stopped and immediately raised the alarm after seeing the other vehicle topple over the edge and plunge down into the chasm.

See SOLDIERS, Page 15

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Embarrassing, but not new

WASHINGTON (AP) - It was sordid, embarrassing.

But it wasn't new. President Bill Clinton was determined not to shed new light on his affair with Monica Lewinsky. And he didn't.

Nor did he blow up, storm out or shout despite relentless, repetitive questioning by Kenneth Starr and his deputies.

Clinton instead tried to turn his interrogation into a case against the prosecution.

The president played to the camera, seeking sympathy and understanding for his refusal to discuss details of his sexual escapades despite even a direct question from a grand juror. He refused to be side-tracked from rehearsed answers.

Was there perjury? That's for lawyers and politicians to argue as the House Judiciary Committee moves ahead toward impeachment proceedings that the public says it does not want.

"I don't think Starr's putting this out ... shows me anything that is impeachable," said presidential historian Henry Graff of Columbia University, who has been very critical of Clinton's behavior.

"I think a lot of steam could come out of this. I would think that even some of the members of the president's own party who have been highly critical would think the president did pretty well, that maybe they jumped on the get-him-out-of-office too soon." University of Pennsylvania political scientist Mark Rozell said Clinton's testimony provided ammunition both for Democrats who support Clinton and Republicans who oppose him.

"There are snippets that may get replayed on the news and statements that may provide more fodder for his opponents," Rozell

ANALYSIS

said. "But the immediate reaction to the whole tone of the thing, how the president conducted himself, doesn't seem all that damaging to me. I don't see where it hurts him. I didn't learn anything new."

Wall Street felt the same way. The Dow Jones industrial average plunged 184 points early Monday but roared back when there were no damaging disclosures, rising 37 by the end.

Clinton used the four hours of videotaped testimony to score his own political points. He complained with sarcasm that Starr had transformed his investigation into "the most important issue in America."

He accused Paula Jones's lawyers, in her sexual harassment lawsuit, of trying to "take a wrecking ball to me and see if they could do some damage." It was as if Clinton knew that his supposedly secret grand jury testimony eventually would be seen not just by the grand jurors but by millions of Americans.

The videotape showed Clinton splitting legal hairs by insisting he did not have sexual relations with Lewinsky because they did not have intercourse. He said most ordinary Americans probably would agree with him—a notion Republicans are sure to ridicule.

Why didn't Clinton point out that his lawyer, Robert Bennett, gave a misleading answer about whether Clinton had engaged in any type of sex with Lewinsky? The president said he was trying to be truthful but not particularly helpful.

At the four-hour mark, prosecutors asked Clinton to go beyond the agreed upon time limit on questioning. He refused, using the final moments to deliver a closing statement about keeping his mind on the job the American people elected him to do.

The question is whether the public will be swayed by his story or turned off by his intransigence.

There was a partisan fight about releasing the videotape and accompanying documents, and it flared anew after Clinton's videotape was broadcast.

"What we've seen here is disturbing," said Republican Rep. Charles Canady. "There's a picture here of evasion and that's troubling."

But Democratic Sen. Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico said, "In the case of this prosecutor and this grand jury, there was no secrecy as to evidence damaging to the president. The substance of every witness's testimony was eagerly made known to the press and in turn eagerly reported."

Plenty of hazards lie ahead. No one has shown a convincing path for regaining Clinton's credibility, authority and stature.

"Republicans continue to be energized because there was plenty there to confirm this man lied," said University of Wisconsin political scientist Charles O. Jones.

"For the Democrats, there has to be more than just the view that, 'Gee, the president was skillful under these circumstances.'"

"The question is, do Democrats come out of that thinking, 'Boy, he's our leader again. I just didn't see that,'" Jones said. "It's not enough on their side that he got through it and skillfully got through it."

WASHINGTON (AP) - Looking boxed-in on a small-screen stage, President Bill Clinton glared at the prosecutor's graphic interrogation: Did you touch her there or there or there?

Clinton dabbed a napkin at the moisture on his upper lip, paused to contain his indignation.

"I will revert to my former statement."

Could he have stained Monica Lewinsky's dress?

A flash of derision. "You asked me for a blood test, so that's a question you already know the answer to."

He bought a moment to compose by reaching for his Diet Coke, which from the hollow clank of the can, sounded empty.

On it went through four hours and a scattered 49 questions.

Over his shoulder, a bowl of pink and orange flowers shared Clinton's static frame. Only his demeanor changed with the line of questioning.

Asked about getting mad at Lewinsky for pitching a fit with Secret Service officers, Clinton reflected with a foud smile, "Miss Lewinsky has a way of getting information out of people when she's either charming or determined."

Nearing the end of Clinton's testimony, deputy independent counsel Solomon Wisenberg said it was the grand jurors themselves, watching on closed-circuit TV, who wanted a "direct answer — yes or no" about one particular encounter.

Clinton offered 89 words in reply, none of them yes or no.

To TV viewers watching the videotape of the August 17 grand jury testimony, independent counsel Kenneth Starr and his deputies were a monotone of unidentified voices, a rustle of papers, an interplay of shadows darkening Clinton's face when they stood at the back of the Map Room.

Clinton's three attorneys were mostly silent, except for David Kendall, who interjected some procedural questions, called a couple of bathroom breaks and sounded the 30-second warning that the prosecutors' time was up.

The harsh light in the room, contrasted with the warm, muted glow that White House handlers staged there for Clinton's televised confession to the nation later that night.

Moments after Clinton raised his right hand in oath, Wisenberg pulled Clinton — as if he were a



A man in a Jerusalem cafe watches President Bill Clinton's videotaped testimony on Monday. (AP)

schoolchild — through a review of the term "whole truth."

A practiced politician aware that grand jurors already had seen through seven months of this investigation, the president looked into the video camera and spoke about two witnesses who made perhaps the most emotionally wrenching appearances.

"I'm glad she got her mother and herself out of trouble," he said of Lewinsky. "I, I, I — it breaks my heart that she was ever involved in this."

Unsolicited, he slammed Linda Tripp for having "stabbed her in the back." He also griped about "trick questions," about being "set up."

Presciently, he worried the

videotape would get out.

Clinton waxed philosophical about sexuality as the "most mysterious area of human life" and detoured into Anita Hill's sexual harassment charges against then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas to make the point that two people can recall a relationship differently.

A struggle to maintain dignity

By CALVIN WOODWARD

WASHINGTON (AP) - Monica Lewinsky laid the details about President Bill Clinton on so thick that she embarrassed herself, prompting a juror to suggest she testify with her eyes closed.

She responded: "Can I hide under the table?"

Plenty of extramarital affairs by politicians have become public but none like Clinton's — nothing close. People will be debating for some time whether they needed to see all they have been shown and will continue to be exposed to in the days ahead.

In his videotaped testimony played Monday around the world, Clinton was subjected to questions unimaginable in any other time and place, before such a vast audience. He struggled to keep his dignity and protect what's left of his privacy.

"I know this is somewhat unusual," he said, "but I would suggest the grand jury ... put yourself in my shoes."

More than 3,000 pages of evidence released Monday contain minutiae on each alleged encounter between the president and former White House intern, a pile too daunting even for most Internet sites to absorb all at once and regurgitate for the public.

Many Americans have already seen enough.

"If they can do this to the president of the United States, they can do that to anybody in this country," said Ann Bevan of Haysville, Kansas, among the members of a jury pool who watched Clinton in a lounge at the Sedgewick County Courthouse in Wichita. "Our lives are no longer private."

Another, Flavia McBride, said: "The whole thing is appalling, but

you don't take any pleasure in seeing someone squirm." She supported broadcast of the tape.

In a CBS News poll released just hours before the testimony, 67 percent of respondents disapproved of the release of the videotape and 58 percent said the motivation in making it public was to embarrass Clinton.

Even so, 54 percent planned to watch it and 72 percent believed Clinton probably committed perjury.

Jennifer Flowers's tell-all book about her relationship with Clinton, Paula Jones's now-dismissed sexual harassment lawsuit and a raft of philandering rumors years old had already pried open the lid on Clinton's private life beyond the norm for sitting presidents.

But the combination of a sexually adventurous president, modern communications technology and hard-driving investigators has opened whole new chapters in what a nation knows about its leader's behavior.

It's been enough to make Texas Governor George W. Bush, mulling over a Republican presidential run, wonder whether he wants to subject his family to the scrutiny that may attend any candidate.

"It's a troubling period," he said in the lead-up to the video release. "Is this something I want to put my family through?"

Alternately forgetful, aggressive and unwilling to go into explicit detail, Clinton told prosecutors: "Look, I'm not trying to be evasive here. I'm trying to protect my privacy, my family's privacy and I'm trying to stick to what the deposition was about."

During her own ordeal before the grand jury, Lewinsky agreed: "No one likes to have their weaknesses played out for the entire world, you know."

When the grand jury pressed her for details on one sexual episode, this exchange ensued: "Uh," Lewinsky said.

"I understand," said a juror.

"Oh my gosh. This is so embarrassing," she responded.

"You could close your eyes and talk," a juror said.

"We won't look at you," offered another.

"Can I hide under the table?" she asked, then pressed forward with the answer.

Starr alleges Clinton lied three times

In his report on possibly impeachable offenses, independent counsel Kenneth Starr said President Bill Clinton "lied under oath three times" in his grand jury testimony.

What the report said were false statements and samples of Clinton's testimony on those subjects:

• The Starr report says Clinton "could not have believed that he was telling 'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth' in denying a sexual relationship, sexual relations, or a sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky."

Clinton maintained that he had not lied to Paula Jones's attorneys because his interactions with Lewinsky fell outside the attorneys' definition of "sexual relations," which included contact with any of a list of body parts.

Clinton testified: "If the deponent is the person who has oral sex performed on him, then the contact is with — not with anything on that list, but with the lips of another person. It seems to be self-evident that that's what it is. And I thought it was curious."

"Let me remind you, sir, I read this carefully. And I thought about it."

Starr said the president's testimony contradicts Lewinsky's testimony that he fondled her breasts and other body parts.

"On this issue, either Monica Lewinsky lied to the grand jury, or President Clinton lied to the grand jury. Under any rational view of the evidence, the president lied to the grand jury," the report said.

Clinton agreed in his testimony that he would have engaged in

"sexual relations" under the Jones definition if he had touched Lewinsky's breasts or other designated body parts with intent to arouse himself or her.

But when asked whether he did, he reverted to his opening statement, which admitted "inappropriate" contact with Ms. Lewinsky while avoiding details.

"You are free to infer that my testimony is that I did not have sexual relations, as I understood this term to be defined," he said.

Q: "Including touching her breast, kissing her breast, or touching her genitalia?"

A: "That's correct."

Clinton testified that his intimate contact with Lewinsky did not begin until 1996, when she was a paid White House staffer. Lewinsky testified that it began November 15, 1995, while she was an intern, and the Starr report said statements she made to friends at the time corroborated her account.

"The motive for the president to make a false statement" appears to be to cover up an encounter with "a young 22-year-old White House intern," the report said.

Clinton testified: "When I was alone with Ms. Lewinsky on certain occasions in early 1996 and once in early 1997, I engaged in conduct that was wrong. These encounters did not consist of sexual intercourse.... But they did involve inappropriate intimate contact."

(AP)

Opinion polls after broadcast favor Clinton

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton's job performance rating went up six percentage points, according to one poll released yesterday, confounding critics who felt his televised testimony would hurt his public standing.

A Gallup poll conducted for CNN and USA Today showed that 66 percent of respondents still approved of the job Clinton is doing, six points higher than the figure on Sunday, the day before the broadcast. The approval figure on the previous Sunday was 64%.

The increase baffled one senior Republican. Sen. Don Nickles of Oklahoma said he was at a loss to explain it.

"Beats me. That is unbelievable. I have never talked to the 60% of people who think he's doing a good job," he told reporters.

Calls to his office were critical of Clinton and supported his resignation or impeachment, Nickles said.

An ABC News poll showed Clinton's job approval holding steady at around 60%. But a CBS poll showed the president's approval rating jumped to 68%, from 59%, after the videotape aired.

In the Gallup poll for CNN and USA Today, 66% of respondents rejected impeachment, but 39% thought Clinton should resign.

USA Today said 81% of respondents believed Clinton definitely or probably lied under oath to the grand jury.

In an NBC News poll, only 28% of respondents believed the president was telling the truth but 57% did not believe the president should resign.

The ABC News poll showed that 70% believed Clinton was right to refuse to talk about the sexual details of his relationship with Lewinsky and 59% thought prosecutors were wrong to ask detailed, probing, explicit questions.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of

EVELYN PEARL

beloved wife of Reevin,
devoted mother of Dr. Elana and Jonathan
loving sister and sister-in-law
of Faigie and Rubin Zimmerman

Funeral on Wednesday, September 23,
in Montreal.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of
my dear husband, our father, father-in-law,
grandfather and brother

ZVI KAPHAN

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday,
September 23, 1998, at 3:00 p.m.,
at the Holon Cemetery.

The mourning family

We mourn the death of our beloved aunt
KATHERINE (KAY) SEGAL
remembering her with tears and laughter

Her grieving nieces: Helen and Rava

PM's office mum on Clinton affair

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's communications director, David Bar-Ilan, said yesterday that Israel has no intention of relating to the release of President Bill Clinton's videotaped testimony in the Monica Lewinsky affair, terming it an "internal matter."

"We, like the Americans themselves, are going to try and go

about our business as usual," said Bar-Ilan. Danna Harman

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place at 1:00 p.m. today at the YMCA, King David Street. Shaul Menashe will speak on "Israeli Broadcasting to the Arab World." Happy New Year and Hag Sameach to all.

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סוכות מן האכל



President Clinton holds up a copy of the judge's definition of sexual relations from his deposition in the Paula Jones case, during his videotaped testimony at the White House. (AP)

Lewinsky - A troubled young woman in love

By RON FOURNIER

WASHINGTON (AP) - Monica Lewinsky tells grand jurors that nobody urged her to lie, nobody bought her silence and nobody is sadder about what happened. Then she breaks down in tears and blurts out, "And I hate Linda Tripp."

The flash of raw, angry emotion - directed at the erstwhile friend who turned in Lewinsky to prosecutors - became public Monday with Congress's release of hundreds of documents and President Bill Clinton's videotaped testimony.

The material reveals a deeply vulnerable young woman whipsawed by emotions during a sexual affair and an indelicate breakup. The man she nicknamed "Handsome" and referred to in gushy letters as "so heavenly" and "simply delicious" was also a "big creep" and "that shmuck" in notes to friends.

Even in the August 20 grand jury testimony, Lewinsky seemed burdened by equal amounts of anger and guilt.

She testified feeling "so wrong and guilty" for exposing Clinton to political embarrassment by blabbing to Tripp about their affair.

"I couldn't imagine doing this to the president," she said.

Yet Lewinsky, 25, also was angry at his aides who "trashed me" and hurt that he didn't mention her in his August 17 address to the nation about their affair.

"I had wanted him to say that I

was a nice, decent person and that he was sorry this had happened," she said.

Clinton publicly apologized to Lewinsky last week. In his testimony released Monday, the president called her "a good girl" and said that once he did "the right thing" and ended the relationship, "she felt a need to cling more closely."

In page after page of testimony, e-mail exchanges and undelivered letters to Clinton, the documents show many sides of a troubled woman.

She was in love.

"Bill, I love you with all my heart," she wrote. In an e-mail, she said, "I want to hug him so bad right now I could cry."

She testified that he had a "beautiful soul. I just thought he was just this incredible person and when I looked at him I saw a little boy and - I don't know what the truth is anymore."

She was in lust.

"We were very compatible sexually," Lewinsky testified. "I've always felt that he was sort of my sexual soulmate."

Asked if the relationship was love or sexual obsession, she said, "more love with a little bit of obsession. But definitely love."

She feared losing him.

"Please be nice to me," she wrote. "Please be my friend."

She was angry.

"In some way, I hope I never hear from him again because he'll just lead me on because he doesn't have the [guts] to tell me the truth." She

called him a vulgarly beginning with "F" in one e-mail to a friend.

She was poignant.

"It's just hard thinking my dad might see this," she said during an embarrassing stage of testimony.

She was hurt.

"What did I do to deserve this?" she asked in one letter, also saying she was "seriously depressed because of everything that has happened."

The documents show Lewinsky was taking two antidepressants as Starr summoned her for grand jury testimony. A friend warned in an e-mail that Lewinsky was "in the midst of a dangerous, psychological situation."

She testified that they had sex near the Oval Office, not in the famous room itself, because that "wouldn't be appropriate, you know."

She wrote about her relationships with other men, joking in an e-mail about a recent tryst by saying "I am soooooo naughty!"

During her testimony, a grand juror chastised her for having an affair with a married man before Clinton, "and you turn around and do it again. You're young. You're vibrant. I can't figure out why you keep going after things that aren't free - that aren't attainable."

A contrite Lewinsky said she moved from the West Coast to Washington because, "I didn't want to have another affair with a married man because it was really painful. It was horrible," she said.

"And I feel even worse about it now."

Europeans fear for US democracy

By TOM HENEGHAN

PARIS (Reuters) - European commentators worried yesterday whether the relentless inquiry into US President Bill Clinton's sex life would end up undermining American democracy.

"An orgy of self-destruction," "the suicide of a democracy" and "a bomb-attack on the office of the president" were images editorials used to describe the wider effects of the wholesale release of videos and documents in the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

The worldwide broadcast of Clinton's grand jury grilling upset viewers in Europe, where politicians have traditionally kept their private lives under wraps, and many commentators echoed German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's remark that the spectacle made him want to vomit.

But with his private life now stripped naked, editorialists looked beyond the tawdry details to ask whether Clinton's Republican enemies were doing as much damage to America's institutions and leadership as to the president himself.

"Without noticing it, American society is drifting towards the worst inquisitorial outrages of totalitarian societies," *Nice-Matin* on the French Riviera commented.

"They are about to undermine the respect for a set of political institutions... that have held up during war and peace for more than 200 years and which are admired and have been imitated in many parts of the world," *Berlingske Tidende* in Copenhagen wrote.

"After special prosecutor (Kenneth) Starr, has the Congress now also been seized by a puritan-

cal drive for persecution and truth that not only destroys the president but permanently damages the world's oldest democratic constitution and its institutions?" the *Frankfurter Rundschau* in Germany asked.

France's *La Croix* asked whether the scandal was giving US-style democracy a bad name in countries that used to look up to America as a political model.

"Think about the triumph all those potentates in Asia, the Middle East and Africa will have when, with their eyes fixed on the recesses of the White House, they can proclaim to their subject peoples - is that your great hope?" it said.

In the nearer term, questions abounded about Clinton's ability to play the role of world leader his allies expect.

"The world needs American leadership today no less than during the confrontation with communism," the Polish business daily *Rzeczpospolita* said. "The resignation of Bill Clinton would help world peace and stability much more than his continuing to fight for his office."

Der Standard in Vienna also thought Clinton's resignation was now inevitable, saying: "After this execution, this humiliation of Clinton the man, there is not much authority left for the office... It is more probable that he will serve his country best by announcing his resignation."

But other commentators were less sure Clinton would go soon.

The *Times* of London said Clinton's evasive answers on the grand jury video "were not outrageous in the circumstances" and thought the evidence so far had not delivered a mortal blow.

Clinton left 'innocuous' phone messages

US President Bill Clinton left a number of "pretty innocuous" telephone messages on Monica Lewinsky's answering machine, she told the grand jury, according to documents released Monday.

Asked if she remembered any particular messages from Clinton, Lewinsky replied, "I remember them all."

"They're pretty innocuous. Sometimes - or one time, it was, you know, 'Sorry I missed you.' One time, it was just, 'Hello.'"

"And then one time he called really late at night when I was not at home and it was whispered kind of loudly, you know, 'Come on. It's me.' Something like that. It was always nice to hear his voice."

Clinton told Lewinsky he was uncomfortable leaving her messages.

"I think he felt it was a little unsafe," she said. (AP)

I dialed 012 to Australia to wish them a Happy New Year. Now you tell me that I get to fly over there. Nothing ever works out quite the way I plan it.



Abuse of Jewish Children

A Lethal GSS and Police Innovation

Ruth Matar discusses with her guests

The subject: A "Children's Jewish Underground." Is that concept absurd, or is there a basis for it? Can the GSS and the police violate the basic human rights of these children under the claim that it is necessary for our "national security?"

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NEWS

in brief

International brokerage buys local firm

The international insurance brokerage J&H Marsh & McLennan plans to acquire Loewenthal Sagiv Ben-Zur, a Tel Aviv-based risk management and insurance broker, the two firms announced earlier this week. Loewenthal Sagiv Ben-Zur, which also has offices in Jerusalem and Haifa, is the largest independent broker in the country.

In a joint statement, Elhanan Loewenthal, chairman of the Israeli firm, and Robert Solomon, chairman of J&H Marsh & McLennan's international specialty operations, said that "this merger will allow us to serve the best interests of our large Israeli clients, as well as the J&H Marsh & McLennan global clients who are continuing to invest in Israel."

Jerusalem Post Staff

Jaffa resident gunned down at garbage dump

Hani Abu Hatzira, 25, a resident of Jaffa, was gunned down Sunday while driving at a garbage dump, next to Rehov Kedem in Jaffa. Abu Hatzira was known as a criminal involved in drug and property offenses. Police say that his body was found by equestrian police who routinely patrol the area.

Itim

10 arrested at pro-Vanunu demonstration

Police detained 10 protesters yesterday who broke down barricades while demonstrating outside the Dimona nuclear facility to mark the 12th anniversary since Mordechai Vanunu's imprisonment.

They were released on condition they do not return to Dimona for 15 days. Some 60 people attended the rally, police said.

The demonstration was sponsored by an international group called the Committee to Free Mordechai Vanunu and to Have a Middle East Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Amy Klein

Three Israelis arrested in Sinai

Egyptian authorities arrested three Israelis over the weekend for allegedly bringing ammunition into the country when they crossed the Taba border en route to Sinai beaches.

Two of the Israelis were taken to the court house in the Sinai town of A-Tur and brought before an Egyptian judge. One was fined about NIS 200 and freed on bail. The punishments of the second and third were not immediately known.

Itim

18 wounded in brawl over elections in Yarka

Eighteen residents of the Druze village of Yarka in the western Galilee were wounded and five were arrested during disturbances that broke out Sunday night and resumed Monday. The clashes were between supporters of rival candidates for head of the local council.

One of the wounded suffered a blow to the head and was evacuated in serious condition to the Nahariya Government Hospital. His condition was later termed stable. The rest of the wounded were lightly hurt and were also taken to Nahariya.

Itim

Police: Rishon LeZion man killed himself

A 47-year-old resident of Rishon LeZion died Sunday morning when he apparently jumped off a highway bridge onto the road. Police believe it was a suicide but are continuing to investigate.

The body was transferred to the Institute for Forensic Medicine in Abu Kabir.

Itim

Two-year-old survives fall from window

A two-year-old child fell yesterday from the third story window of his parents' home in Kiryat Motzkin, after climbing on the window ledge while his parents slept. A neighbor who found the injured toddler called his parents. The child was taken to Rambam Hospital in Haifa in serious condition. His condition had improved by last night, and doctors said his life is not in danger.

Itim

Oasis casino overflowing with crowds

The Oasis casino in Jericho was so crowded yesterday afternoon and evening that management was forced to close the doors for several hours in order to facilitate quality service to over a thousand gamblers who were already inside. Since its official opening last week, the casino has had some 20,000 guests, approximately 10,000 of whom visited during Rosh Hashana.

Greer Fay Cashman

Thai bar features Hitler on its beer coasters

A popular bar in northern Thailand is giving its customers free coasters with their beer that feature pictures of famous people - including Adolf Hitler, Israeli tourists told Army Radio.

The station reported Sunday that Israelis who came to the bar were shocked to find the Hitler coasters under their beer glasses. The caption under Hitler's picture read "Adolf Hitler - started the Second World War and murdered six million Jews." Others in the coaster series include William Shakespeare, Walt Disney and Alexander Graham Bell. The bar's shift manager told Army Radio's stringer in Thailand: "We are interested in broadening the education of our guests and to present them with information about people in various fields."

Itim

Iran's Khatami attacks Israel in UN address

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Peace and security in the Middle East can prevail only when all Palestinians have the right to "exercise sovereignty over their ancestral homeland," the president of Iran told the UN on Monday, saying that "Palestine... is not the laboratory for the violent whims of Zionists."

In the first address to the General Assembly by an Iranian president in more than a decade, Mohammed Khatami called "Palestine" the homeland of Moslems, Christians and Jews and said Israel was to blame for making coexistence in

Jerusalem impossible.

However, he did not attack the Oslo Accords in his speech.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is scheduled to address the 53rd session of the assembly tomorrow. Khatami also asked the UN to help resolve the crisis in Afghanistan.

Iran, which has condemned the rule of the militant Sunni Taliban movement in Afghanistan and the murders of nine Iranian diplomats, has amassed more than 100,000 troops on the Afghan border.

But Khatami did not threaten to invade Afghanistan. Instead, he said, "There is no military solution

to that country's predicament."

The Iranian president, on his first trip to the US, did not criticize Washington in his address to the UN (Photograph, Page 5).

Although Khatami proposed that the UN declare 2001 the "year of dialogue among civilizations," his government did not send its foreign minister, Kamal Kharazi, to a UN-sponsored eight-country meeting on Afghanistan.

That meeting, whose participants included Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, had been expected to produce the highest-level diplomatic contacts between the two states in two decades.

Barak: No more rabbis' blessings

By SARAH HONG

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak made a New Year's resolution to no longer seek any more rabbinical blessings.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu retorted by labelling Barak "sanctimonious and hypocritical - and not for the first time."

The entire issue was sparked by an stinging attack launched last Thursday by Geshet MK David Levy against centennial Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie, whose blessings and curses are reputed to be a major political asset for Shas.

Kadourie had recently refused to bless Levy's son, who is running for mayor in Beit She'an but did confer his blessing on his Labor opponent, Pnini Khabalo.

Kadourie also called on Netanyahu to personally deliver New Year's greetings to the premier. Barak joined the fray by unequiv-

ocally endorsing Levy's stance.

He called "rabbinical interference in politics intolerable and reprehensible," and he vowed that from now on he will stop seeking rabbinical blessings.

"I will not go to rabbis to try and win their support," he promised.

Netanyahu, found "Barak's onslaught on the rabbis 'amusing.' It's interesting that concern over rabbinical involvement arises only when people like Barak, who constantly chase after the rabbis, do not receive the coveted blessing, a fact which leads them to denounce the phenomenon."

Netanyahu said that to his mind "rabbis have opinions - like professors, poets and authors. And just as these gurus of secular Israel do not hesitate to declare where they stand politically, so rabbis have the same right. I do not regard what they say as a religious commandment but as the expression of an opinion."

Senior PA official arrested after addressing Hamas demo

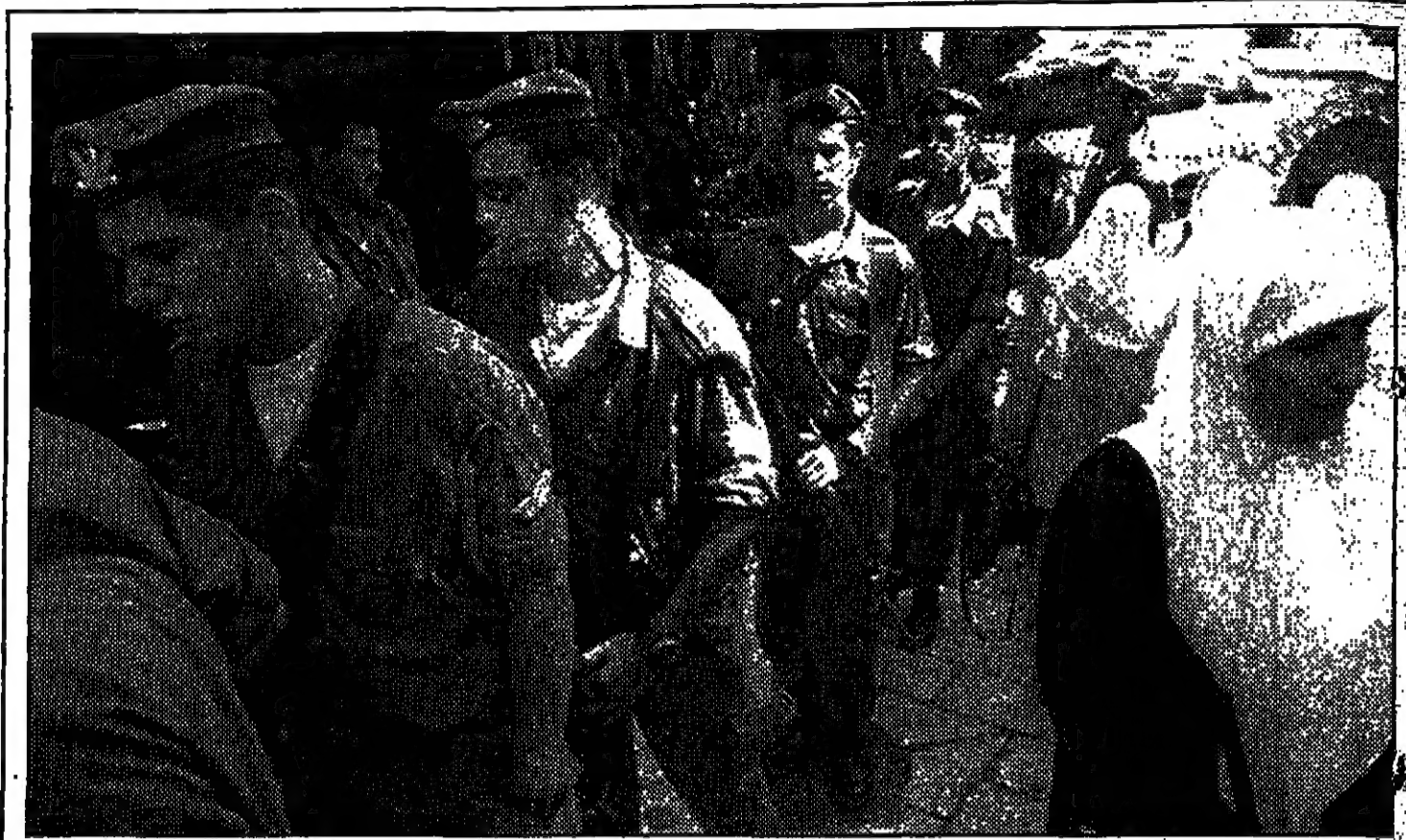
By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

A senior Palestinian Authority official who addressed a Hamas rally in support of the slain Awadallah brothers was arrested for three days on orders of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mohammed Mahmoud Muqbel, 50, general director of the PA Youth and Sports Ministry, was arrested on Sunday by Force 17, the elite unit which guards Arafat. He was held in Ramallah prison and released yesterday.

Muqbel addressed thousands of Palestinians in Ramallah on Friday at a rally which called for revenge against Israel for the killing of the Awadallahs, who were blamed for the suicide bus bombings last year.

Muqbel called their deaths reprehensible and appealed for Palestinian unity. He said yesterday that his being arrested was "undemocratic."



Beefed-up security

IDF soldiers patrol Jerusalem's Old City yesterday in beefed-up security over Rosh Hashana following Hamas reprisal threats for the killing of the Awadallah brothers earlier in the month.

(AP)

Hebron police thwart anti-settler protest

By MARGOT DUKOVITCH

Police yesterday detained four members of a left-wing group, the Solidarity Committee for Hebron, after they arrived in the city to demand the immediate evacuation of settlers there.

In a separate development, the Jerusalem Magistrate's court on Sunday ordered Avshalom Ladani, 35, from the West Bank settlement of Dolev, to be released from police custody to house arrest in a Jerusalem youth hostel for seven

days. Last Thursday morning, Ladani opened fire at Palestinian stone-throwers near Beituniya in the Ramallah area, killing one Palestinian youth and injuring another.

Judea and Samaria Police Spokesman Ofer Sivan said police knew about the left-wing activists plans and had deployed accordingly. One group was detained in Hebron and a second group was turned back by police in the Gush Etzion area.

Sivan said it was clear that their

intentions were provocative. Security forces imposed a closed military zone in the Israeli-controlled section of Hebron.

The group's spokesman, Hillel Barak, said that it had planned to protest against the presence of the settlers and call for a halt to "apartheid" policies toward the Palestinians living in the Israeli section of the city.

Sivan said Ladani, the Dolev settler, was ordered not to talk with anyone involved in the incident. He said that police are continuing the investigation.

Ladani has said he acted in self-defense. He turned himself in to police the same day after hearing that Iyad Qarabsi had died.

Where to eat in Israel

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DEVORAH SCHECHTER CATERING - Kosher Limehadrin, Jerusalem Rabbinate. Catering for all occasions, Shabbat and Hagim. Meat, dairy and parev menus. Great desserts. Tel: 02-679 4872. Fax: 02-679 3710.

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MARVAD HAKSAMIN ORIENTAL RESTAURANT - Mid-Eastern and Yemenite food. Kosher/meat Open for lunch & dinner till 11:00 p.m.; Sun.-Thurs., Fri. till 3:00 p.m. 16 King George St., (next to Carvel). Tel: 02-625 4470.

NORMAN'S STEAK'N BURGER - Freshest burgers, steaks, ribs, chicken, fish, salads and more, grilled to perfection. American style food and service. Kosher Jerusalem Rabbinate. 27 Emek Refaim, German Colony. Tel: 02-566 6903.

THE PIE SHOP - TEA & PIE. DON'T PASS ME BY, kosher, sweet & savory pies, dairy menu; soups, salads, toasts, specialty drinks. Open 11:00 a.m.-12 midnight. 9 Yot Solomon (back yard). Tel: 02-624 8712.

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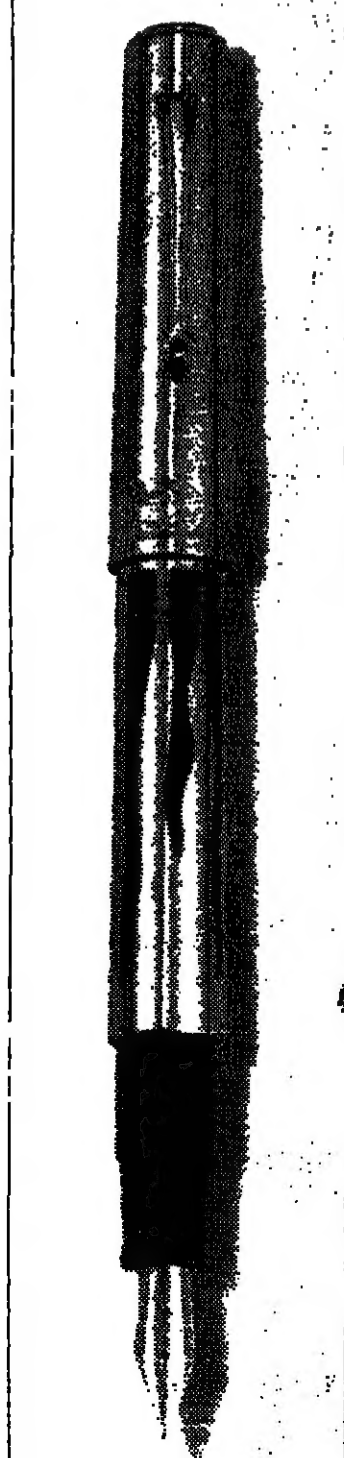
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By NICOLE WINFIELD

UNITED NATIONS

World leaders opened the first day of the General Assembly's 53rd session Monday by urging an international effort to curb the growing financial crisis before it erupts into a complete economic collapse.

President Bill Clinton said the US would do more to help the world economy, but he warned that the US would not be the only one to suffer if the crisis continued.

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World leaders urge action on Asian financial crisis, terrorism

By NICOLE WINFIELD

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — World leaders opened the first day of the General Assembly's annual debate Monday by urging an international effort to rein in the Asian financial crisis before it brings down more economies and calling for a comprehensive attack on terrorism.

President Bill Clinton pledged the US would do more to minimize the world economic turmoil. But he focused his address on the fight against terrorism — evidenced Monday in the unprecedented security that greeted world leaders and will remain in place for the next two weeks.

"Because we are blessed to be a wealthy nation with a powerful military and a worldwide presence active in promoting peace and stability, we are often a target," Clinton said, referring to the August 7 dual bombings on US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

"No one in this room, nor the people you represent, are immune," Clinton said.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair offered to host a high-level conference in London this fall — aimed at eliminating opportunities for terrorists to raise money.

"Effective new measures, on an agreed international basis, could make a real difference," Blair said.

Iran's president, Mohammed Khatami, called for a universal dialogue to promote peace and end violence, including terrorism.

He suggested the United Nations designate 2001 the "Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations."

Brazil's foreign minister launched the assembly's 53rd session by warning that a few countries alone cannot bail out nations suffering from the effects of the Asian financial crisis.

"Experience teaches us that

inaction can have a high cost," Luiz Felipe Lampreia said.

"The world cannot depend only on the willingness, capacity and interest of a select number of countries to mobilize and lead international efforts in this or that direction."

In recent weeks, Brazil's stock and currency markets have been battered by the Asian economic crisis that has seen investors fleeing Asia, Russia and other developing markets.

Japan is hoping to regain its role as financial leader in the region by implementing "measures of support" totalling about \$43 billion — most of it in loans — to its neighbors, the Japanese prime minister said Monday. (Story, Page 6)

"Japan is making every effort possible, through such measures as stabilizing our financial system, to put our own economy on a recovery track within the next year or two," Keizo Obuchi said.

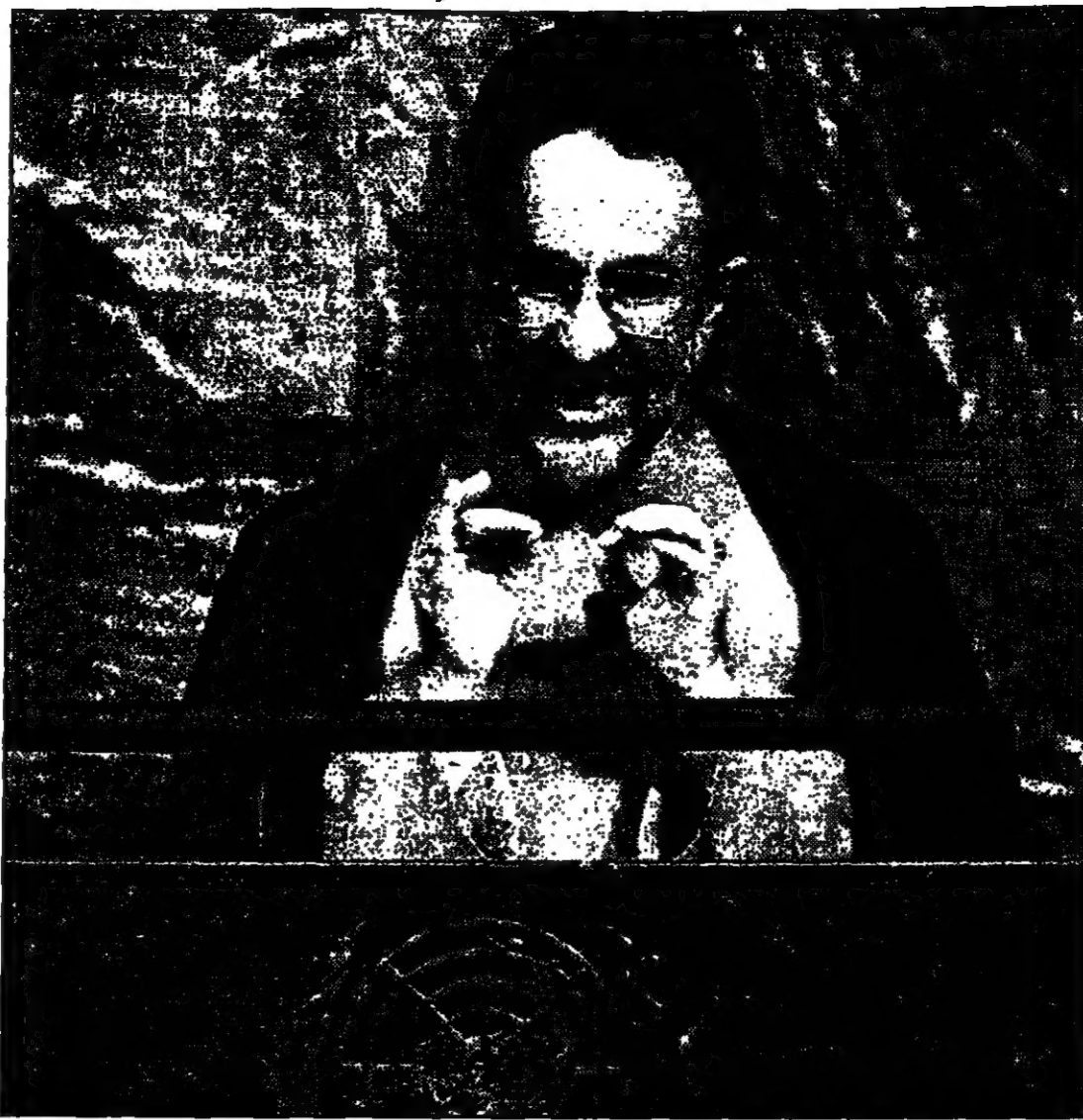
"We believe that early recovery of our own economy is the best contribution we can make to the economies of Asia and the world."

Sri Lanka's president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, urged the creation of a "lender of last resort" to meet the needs of the volatile markets because existing financial institutions couldn't handle all the problems.

Kumaratunga decried what she said was the terrorism that has wracked Sri Lanka for 15 years and killed an estimated 54,000 people.

"A particularly cruel offense against the innocence of children is their forced recruitment by a terrorist group in Sri Lanka to serve as suicide killers in the name of a cause they are too young to even comprehend," she said.

South African President Nelson Mandela focused on human rights abuses that afflict millions of people around the world — particu-



Iranian President Mohammad Khatami addresses the opening session of the UN General Assembly on Monday.

ly in Africa, where regional conflicts in Sudan, Congo and Angola threaten to spill over.

"The very right to be human is denied every day to hundreds of

millions of people," held hostage by conflict, nuclear terror and brutal regimes, he told the audience in what was expected to be his last speech at the assembly.

"Many are still unable to participate in the determination of the destiny of their family and to protect themselves from tyranny," said Mandela.

Yeltsin OKs new gov't

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin approved the structure of Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov's new government yesterday and the full lineup was expected to be completed by the end of the week.

Despite Russia's economic gloom, the ruble strengthened slightly as investors awaited details of the new economic program and an opinion poll showed a majority of Russians approved of the conservative but pragmatic Primakov as premier.

Primakov's successor as foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, told Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during talks in New York that Russia would unveil its economic plans later this week and he pledged no changes in Russian foreign policy.

This week the government will be formed, basically, and the first session of the government is scheduled to take place on September 24," Ivanov said.

Yeltsin signed a decree formally approving the cabinet structure. Russian news agencies said Primakov would have two first deputy prime ministers and four

deputy prime ministers, and that regional leaders would have a formal government role.

A government spokesman said Primakov had nominated Valentina Matviyenko, Russia's ambassador to Greece, to be deputy prime minister in charge of social policy, one of the tougher cabinet jobs because millions of Russians have not been paid for months.

The little-known career diplomat, who is 49, was at best third choice after two prominent politicians rejected the post. If approved by Yeltsin, she would be post-Soviet Russia's first woman deputy prime minister.

The fate of liberal Acting Finance Minister Mikhail Zadornov hung in the balance.

He played down a government decision to print money to revive the debt-ridden banking system, saying the issue had been modest and would not be dangerously inflationary.

In an interview with Reuters television, Zadornov also said Russia needed fast-acting tax measures rather than artificial liquidity, and he proposed new taxes on oil and natural gas.

Tanzania releases 3 bomb suspects

DAR ES SALAAM (AP) — Three men held for questioning in the US Embassy bombing here were ordered released yesterday, just a day after Tanzania charged two others in the blast that killed 11 Africans.

Adadi Rajabu, director of criminal investigations, said the three were still under investigation but had provided important information in the investigation of the August 7 attack.

On Monday, Egyptian Mustafa Mahmoud Said Ahmed and Tanzanian Rashid Saleh Hemed were each charged with 11 counts of murder.

Rajabu said both men would be tried in Tanzania "because the crime was committed in the country, and all the victims were Tanzanian." A nearly simultaneous bombing at the US Embassy in neighboring Kenya killed 248 people.

A suspect arrested in Germany in connection with the two bombings will be held in Munich until he can be extradited to the US, according to a court warrant issued yesterday.

The US has 40 days to complete extradition proceedings for the suspect, identified as Mamdouh Mahmoud Salim.

Germany threatens force over Kosovo

By NICOLE WINFIELD

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Germany threatened Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic with military force yesterday if he doesn't loosen his grip on the separatist province of Kosovo, saying NATO was prepared to act to find a solution to the crisis.

In a speech to world leaders gathered for the General Assembly, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel condemned the use of force by Milosevic's forces and by the Kosovo Liberation Army.

"The KLA is fighting for the

independence of Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians make up 90 percent of the population.

However, "most of the responsibility for this drama lies with Belgrade," with President Milosevic," Kinkel said in his prepared text. "He must realize that the international community will react with military force if necessary."

Russia, however, has said it is flatly opposed to any threat of force.

The use of force to resolve the Kosovo conflict "might lead to a big war with unpredictable consequences for the Balkan region and

Europe at large," Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov told the assembly.

He called for a solution based on returning Kosovo's autonomy, which was removed by Milosevic in 1989, while respecting Yugoslavia's borders.

Wife of jailed Malaysian reformer claims police harassment

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The wife of Malaysia's jailed pro-reform leader alleged police harassment after troops surrounded her house yesterday, and accused the government of being evasive about the charges against her husband.

Anwar Ibrahim's wife, Azizah Ismail, said that neither she nor his lawyers had been allowed to meet him since his arrest Sunday. Police have also threatened her with arrest for suggesting her husband had been injected with the HIV virus while in police detention.

Police had not responded to repeated requests by lawyers and Anwar's family for information, Azizah told reporters.

Truckloads of field troops carrying assault rifles surrounded Anwar's home yesterday. Another 30 riot police with tear gas canisters were posted outside the house, while about 500 supporters milled about.

LIBI - The Fund For Strengthening Israel's Defense

Cornerstone for a new sick ward in the Southern Command's medical clinic

In a ceremony held on September 7, the cornerstone was laid for a modern, spacious sick ward in the Southern Command's medical clinic. The clinic was made possible by a generous donation to the Libi Fund from a legacy of the brothers, Rachmil and Moszek Rubman.



Right to left: Brig.-Gen. Dr. Arye Elad, Gen. (Res.) Danny Matt, by the cornerstone of the new regional sick ward.

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Tel. 03-597-5183, 03-596-8205, 03-569-5610
Internet: <http://www.libi-fund.org.il>
E-mail: Libifund@netvision.net.il

WORLD

in brief

Khatami: Rushdie affair finished

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) — Iranian President Mohammed Khatami said yesterday that the Salman Rushdie affair should be regarded as "completely finished." But he announced no substantive change in Iran's position on the death sentence issued against the British author of *The Satanic Verses* by the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Khatami said that while Khomeini and other religious leaders had expressed their views in 1989 on what they regarded as Rushdie's blasphemy against Islam, the Iranian government had announced it would take no action on the issue. Iran now wanted to move on from the cultural clash of the Rushdie affair, which poisoned relations between the Islamic republic and Europe, to promote a dialogue between civilizations, the president said.

Hurricane kills 4 in Caribbean

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Hurricane Georges, one of the most powerful storms to hit the Caribbean in years, killed three people in a Puerto Rico landslide Monday as it swept across the island packing howling winds of up to 180 kph. Georges also killed a resident of St. Kitts, which suffered extensive damage along with the nearby islands of Antigua and St. Croix. It toppled power lines, mangled trees, smashed hotel windows and ripped roofs off homes.

UN: Arab population growth slowing

BEIRUT (Reuters) — Population growth in Arab nations is beginning to slow down but it will take about two decades before the number of people living in the region stabilizes and later starts to fall, a UN official said yesterday.

According to statistics used by the UN Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA), the total population of Arab countries in 1994 was 237 million, and is expected to reach 272 million by the year 2000.

Hazem Beblawi, executive secretary of ESCWA said lowering the growth rate was hampered by the fact that almost half the population of Arab countries was below the age of 15.

Beblawi said populations in the Palestinian self-rule areas and the Gulf states were expanding at the highest rate.

400 more British soldiers to leave N. Ireland

BELFAST (AP) — Hundreds of British soldiers will soon return home in response to April's peace agreement, the Northern Ireland police commander announced yesterday. Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan said about 400 soldiers from the Royal Artillery and Highlander regiments would fly out within days, reducing troop strength in the British-ruled territory to about 16,000. One battalion of 400 has already left since the agreement.

Australian poll: Labor slightly ahead

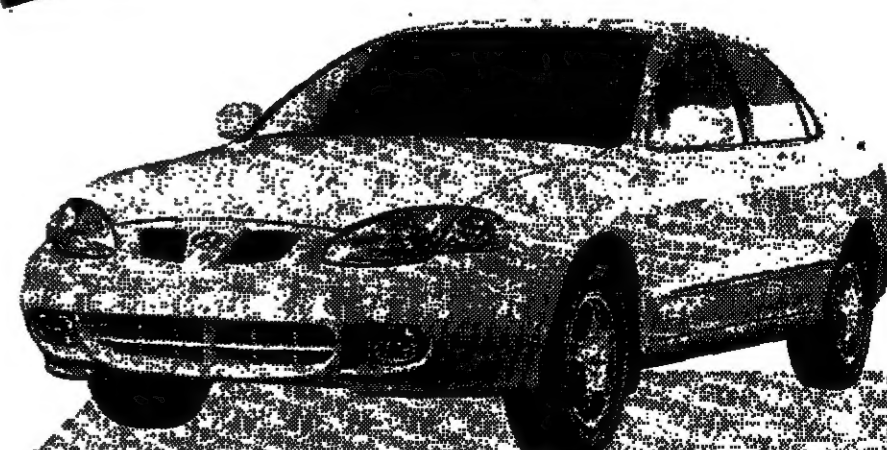
SYDNEY (AP) — A new poll yesterday showed the Labor opposition holds a slight lead over Prime Minister John Howard's conservative government in the windup to the October 3 election, but the race is too close to call. The Newspoll, conducted for *The Australian* newspaper, also shows that while support for the major parties has remained virtually stable since the election campaign began, the right-wing populist One Nation party's popularity has fallen three weeks in a row to its lowest level since before the Queensland election. The Newspoll of 1,174 respondents showed Labor was still in front by 52 to 48 percent.

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Clinton tells Obuchi: Japan needs economic reform

By STEVE HOLLAND

NEW YORK (Reuters) - US President Bill Clinton told Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi yesterday there was "virtually unanimous support in the world" for financial reforms to restore economic growth in Japan and Asia as a whole.

The two men held private talks for an hour, much longer than expected, then were joined by their delegations for more discussions. The summit was held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel after bad weather forced them to cancel a trip to the Rockefeller family estate north of the city.

Asked if he thought he would succeed in persuading the Japanese parliament to pass economic reforms, Obuchi replied: "I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic on this."

Clinton said the US wanted to help Tokyo find a way out of its problems, but he avoided any public comments pressing Japan to accept specific policies.

"I think there is virtually unanimous support in the world for the kind of financial reforms that would restore economic growth in Japan,"

Clinton said during a picture-taking session with Obuchi.

Clinton said he had invited the Japanese prime minister to come back for a formal state visit early next year. Obuchi accepted.

The visit would make up for one cancelled by Obuchi's predecessor, Ryutaro Hashimoto, who was forced to cancel when his government collapsed in July.

Obuchi came to the US under pressure by Washington to enact speedy bank reform, tax cuts and greater public spending from Japan to stimulate its economy and help end Asia's lingering financial crisis.

Clinton said the US wanted to be encouraging and that he realized the Japanese government would have to work out what was "politically possible."

"We want to do what we can to be supportive to help do whatever we can to create the climate which would permit a quick restoration of economic growth in Japan and therefore in Asia," he said.

Obuchi said the steps Japan ultimately takes will have "very large implications worldwide."

"I intend to make my very best effort at addressing this issue," he said. "I am convinced that we will

be able to do something."

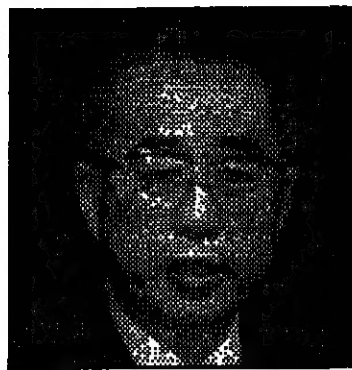
White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Clinton and Obuchi had struck up a positive working relationship quickly and that Obuchi told Clinton what his understanding was of the status of the bank reform legislation in the Japanese parliament, the Diet.

"We obviously have our concerns about the reforms we believe are necessary in the Japanese banking system and its financial system generally," McCurry said.

He said "both sides understand the importance of moving swiftly." He said Clinton's message to Obuchi was that it would be "in the best interests of the people of Japan" to institute reforms to help the recovery of Japan and be a role model for all of Asia.

The two leaders met a day after Clinton's August 17 videotaped grand jury testimony in the Monica Lewinsky case was broadcast to the American people.

Clinton has used his three-day New York trip to portray himself as engaged in pressing foreign policy matters as he faces possible impeachment by the House of Representatives over his affair with Lewinsky and apparent efforts to



Keizo Obuchi (AP)

hide it.

US officials said the American team wanted to hear the Japanese plan for fixing its ailing banking system agreed last Friday between opposition and ruling party leaders.

The deal failed to work out how the government would deal with bank debts of nearly a trillion dollars and was coming apart in Tokyo.

The American side hopes to use the summit to underscore that Japan remains the cornerstone of US security policy in the Asia Pacific region. Clinton's trip to China in late June and early July raised some concerns in Japan.

Bosnian president concedes electoral defeat

By KATARINA KRATOVCIC

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - The moderate Bosnian Serb president conceded defeat Monday to a hard-liner in this month's election. She vowed to continue fighting for democracy in the Serb-ruled part of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I'm addressing the public not as the president, but as a member of my coalition," incumbent President Biljana Plavsic said in acknowledging her loss to extreme nationalist Nikola Poplasen.

Although the final tally of Bosnia's September 12-13 vote won't be known until later this week, election officials have indicated that Poplasen defeated Plavsic, the US's favorite.

On Monday, the US Embassy in Sarajevo advised "Americans against unnecessary travel to Serb-ruled parts of Bosnia because 'the emotional tone of the political rhetoric' there is increasing and 'may serve to heighten tensions in the area.'"

Duchess of York's mother dies in Argentine car crash

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) - The Duchess of York flew Monday to the Argentine ranch of her late mother Susan Barrantes, mourning her death in a weekend car crash.

Looking weary in a black dress, the former Sarah Ferguson arrived by overnight flight from Britain and said nothing to reporters before traveling to her mother's country estate near Tres Lomas, some 500 kilometers southwest of Buenos Aires.

"Fergie," the ex-wife of Queen Elizabeth II's second son, Prince Andrew, heard the news early

Sunday while on vacation in Italy. Police said Barrantes, 61, was killed instantly Saturday night when the Rover she was driving collided with a van near Tres Lomas, while returning to the ranch where she raised polo ponies.

Barrantes's passenger, nephew by marriage Rafael Barrantes, 25, escaped with minor injuries. The driver of the other car, Jose Maria Rodriguez, suffered a broken ankle, police said.

Aides to the duchess said Barrantes would be buried alongside her second husband at the estate. The duchess's sister, Jane

Lueddecke, who lives in Australia, flew separately to the Argentine capital.

With the death of her mother, Fergie has lost her staunchest ally through years of divorce, debt and disgrace, a family friend said Monday.

Barrantes was the widow of Hector Barrantes, an Argentine polo player, and ex-wife of the duchess's father, Maj. Ronald Ferguson, the queen's former polo manager.

Barrantes left Ferguson for Barrantes and settled with him in Argentina in 1975. Hector Barrantes died of cancer in 1990.

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Celebrate Succot at a festival

By HELEN KAYE

Don't rain on our parade." Succot festival organizers up and down the country silently beseech the heavens. What follows is a roundup of Succot festivals and activities, both new and veteran, and this year we'll go by date.

October 2-10 is the Heineken Jazz Festival, a new one organized by the Tel Aviv Municipality, Heineken and Camelot Productions with lots of jazz from local and visiting artists, including jazz in the streets, a parade and so forth.

The visitors include the Kenneth Jordan Quartet, Texan Dewey Redman, the Myron Walden Quartet, and trombonist Slide Hampton playing with the Tel Aviv Jazz Orchestra. Jordan is a flutist from New Orleans who happily mixes jazz and the classics. Saxophonist Walden, 24, is a Sijalls Club graduate and a cornet. Redman, also a saxophonist, is an avant-garde jazz pioneer. Hampton, a trombonist, has been wowing audiences since the Sixties.

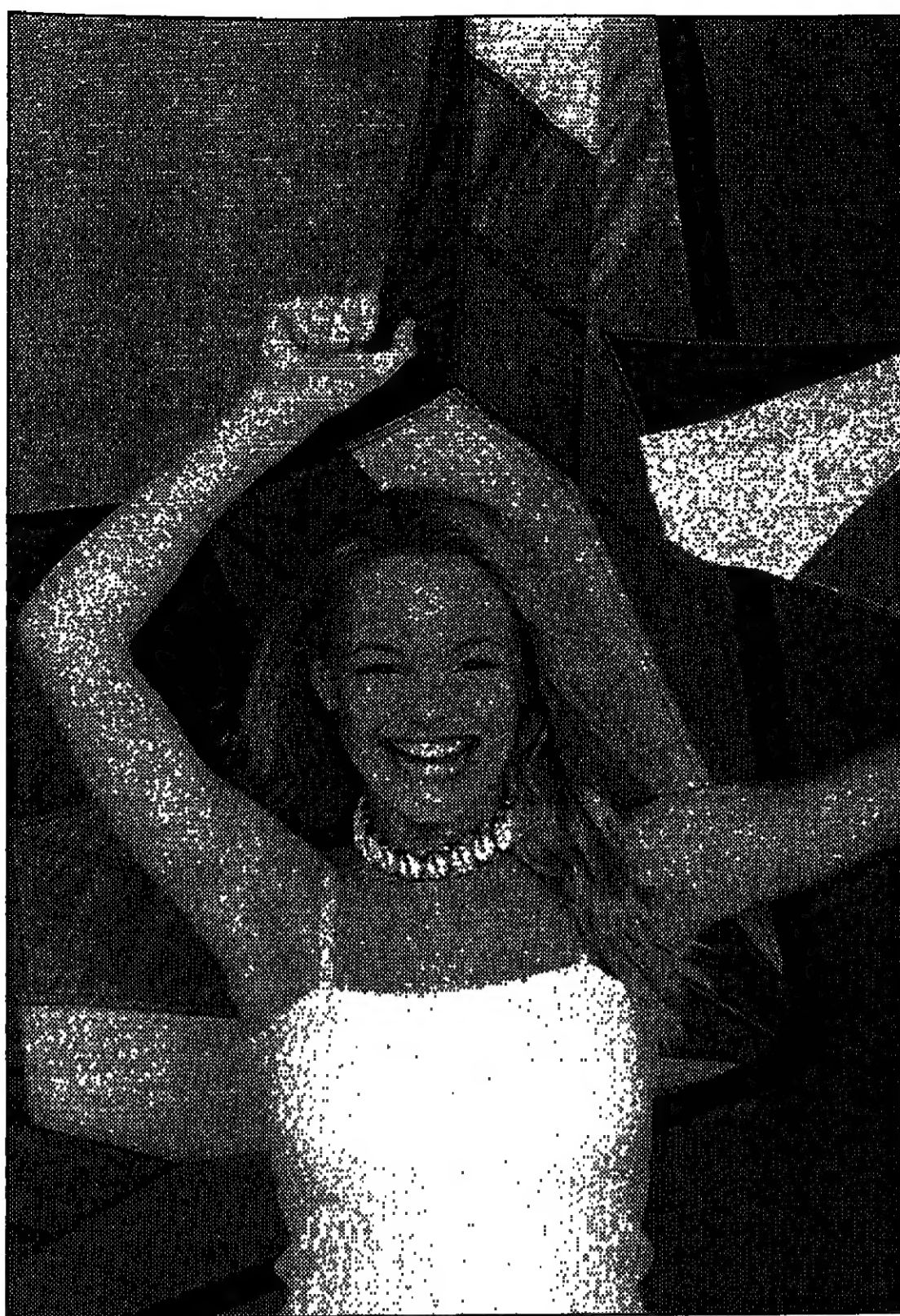
The Israeli players include Esta and Incognito - both bands that have come home after making it abroad - and Candela, a jazz flamenco ensemble. The parade happens **October 2** at 2 p.m. starting from Rabin Square and winding down to the Dolphinarium via Dizengoff Center and the beach promenade. Concerts start mostly between 10:30 p.m. and midnight. Concert venues include the Einav Center, Habimah, Tzavta, Camelot and Logos.

October 3-10 is the Beit She'an Festival. This little city has one of the most spectacular Roman amphitheaters in the region, worth a visit anytime. Greek singer Glykeria (October 6) and the 36-year-old Luisillo Spanish Dance Theater (October 3, 5, 6) are the centerpieces of the festival, which also presents Shlomo Artzi (October 8) and Ethnix with Eyal Golan - recently voted Music Man of the Year - on October 10. Making its local debut, the 40-member Spanish company is presenting *Carmen* (twice) and *Romeo and Juliette*, both choreographed by the company's founder and artistic director, Luis Davila. *Romeo and Juliette* is a classic, and the world's most famous love story is played out against the fiery passions of that people. *Carmen*, of course, is also a Gypsy love story. The shows start at 8:30 p.m.

October 5 is the starting date for the Acre Theater Festival (October 5-8), the Yehiam Renaissance Festival (October



Meir Suissa



Yael Bar-Zohar presents a one-day-only kite happening at Ma'ayan Harod on the Gilboa.

5-7, the multiple happenings in the Yoav-Yehuda area (info: 08-850-2240), the Dead Sea North (info: 02-994-3222), the Western Galilee (all through Succot, info: 04-985-2377), the Harvest Festival in Afula (October 5-12), Music at Tabgha (October 5-12), and the Janusz Korczak Affonia, a one-day-only kite happening from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Ma'ayan Harod on the Gilboa (info: 06-653-3360/261), with Yael Bar-Zohar in a live family show at 3 p.m. There's a monster kite flyby at 2 p.m. and lots more, including workshops on kite making.

The Acre Theater Festival plays are all in Hebrew, except for a two of the eight free street theater performances - US juggler Lee Hayes and Spanish clown Leandre in his show *Street Tease*. There are 23 shows altogether. Visitors should know that late starts are epidemic at Acre, but the festival itself is a showcase of current Israeli playwrighting. Plays like *My Jubilee*, *Rust*, *Happy Birthday* and *Before the Bride Chokes* portray the writers' deep unease at what is

happening to Israeli society. The shows run from 10 a.m. to midnight.

The Yehiam festival presents early music in the romantic setting of the kibbutz's Crusader castle, and there's atmosphere in spades. Visiting and local groups share the various stages and there are lots of activities for children, centered around the subject of early music. Highlights include the unusual pairing of Shlomo Gronich and the Meltzer Consort in a cheeky updating of period music, and countertenor David De'or in arias from Dowland to Rinaldi. Visitors include the Cremonese Collegium Musicum playing *Dances for Dukes* and a concert for children called *Comedy and Music*, the Rose Concert of Viols playing music from the court of Elizabeth I - *Hail, Beauties, Gloriana*, as well as English music for the viola da gamba - and *Quiet Nights* from the Israel/Venezuela Renaissance Ensemble. There are free shows for kids of all ages, fortune tellers, street theater and more. Shows are from 1 to 7 p.m.

Most of the Kibbutzim and settlements in the geographical areas mentioned have events during Succot. They include a flute quartet at the Chamber Khan (October 10, 02-991-5786), 5 p.m. sunset jazz concerts at Mineral Beach on alternate days during Hoi Hamood (02-994-4888), and magical experiences with musician Niko Levy daily at 12:30 p.m. at Mitzpe Hararut (06-678-1404).

Afula's Harvest Festival offers appearances by Ethnix, Zehava Ben, the Smahot Ensemble, Uzi Hitan and Hanan Yovel, as well as the Mount Pleasant Gospel Singers (October 8) from the US and a parade of farming machines and sports events. It's all free. (info: 06-659-5797).

How Schoenberg, Ravel & Britten brought vocals into the 20th century

CLASSIC DISCS

The lied was one of the most popular classical-music genres of the 19th century. Composers put to music numerous poems that were performed in various surroundings, private and public, big and small.

From Schubert and Schumann through Mahler to Richard Strauss, the lied conquered European society with all its purity and delectable charm. It became part and parcel not only of high society, but literally of everyone. It was simple, it was beautiful, it was refined and it was divine.

Yet, almost simultaneously, composers began to write songs in which the human voice is accompanied not by the solo piano but by a full symphony orchestra. And when some composers negated the new media, others jumped on it and arranged lieder written by their colleagues to the larger concert-hall environment.

Three of the major vocal composers of the first part of the 20th century are Schoenberg, Ravel and Britten. And two new discs emphasize their importance and their significance in the world of classical music in general and vocal music in particular.

Ravel: *Sheherazade* - Boston Symphony Orchestra, Seiji Ozawa, Sylvia McNair (Philips

446 682-2) is a disc to be treasured, featuring the caressing voice of McNair in two very important works.

In many ways, Ravel's *Sheherazade* is a song-cycle setting the tone for what followed it later on. On the one hand it is a very simple and purified, almost romantic opus. The three songs in which the singer expresses her yearning for a long-forgotten exotic world are very evocative and passionate. Yet listen closely and you realize at once that this is not 19th-century Vienna but very clearly 20th-century Paris. This is impressionistic music at its very best.

And when followed immediately by Britten's haunting "Les Illuminations," which McNair sings with power and significance, you at once see where it all began.

Britten, who loved the human voice with all his heart, created here a very perplexing and beguiling opus in which he plays with clusters of sound in his unique way. It is not a work one would hum in the street, but it is a most captivating opus that is here performed passionately.

Altogether this is a first-rate recording in which McNair is at her very best, combining her operatic soprano with a much more poetic and lyric instrument that simply tells a story, and a most charming one too. Arnold Schoenberg is above all considered an avant-garde composer in

Dohnanyi (October 7), and the *Missa Criolla* from the Cantus workshop choir (October 10). Shows mostly start at 8:30 p.m.

October 6-8 is reserved for The Festival of Humor in Beersheba and free activities for the kids at the Israel Museum. Laughter is definitely the best medicine, especially for the daft times we live in, but you do need to have very good Hebrew for the Beersheba festival. *Israel Laughs* is the opening show, a multimedia extravaganza presenting 50 years of Israeli humor orchestrated by master-impressionist Tuvia Tsafir and a gaggle of funny-persons including Bnot Pessia, Meir Suissa and Tsippi Shavit. Other shows include a salute to great mime/comedian Shaika Ophir (October 8), an evening of salty Yiddish humor (October 7), Rami Hoyberger and Dov Navon in *Two Drops of Water* and kiddie shows including Mame Hanoch Rosenne. There are also free shows, like a marathon of wanna-be stand-up comedians and a young talent show. It all happens at three Beersheba venues. Shows are between 4 and 11 p.m.

Mommy and Daddy have to pay, but kids and tourists get in free at the Israel Museum (02-670-8935) and there are lots of things to do from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The festivities include klezmer concerts, Israel Zohar singing Jewish soul music, the Oyf Simches group (October 6), a food fair with a Succot theme, Succot workshops and even recycle-artist Hanoch Fiven making his clever celebrity portraits out of junk (October 8).

October 7-10 sees the start of the Holon Storytelling Festival, four days of every kind of story from every kind of person - including lawyers - and on every kind of subject from Viagra to superstitions to matchmakers and Yiddish. Even President Ezer Weizman gets into the act. He's the guest of honor at an evening of stories devoted to the State's first flyboys. It happens at several venues around the Holon Theater, and includes the usual Beduin tent and freebies. New this year, however, is an air-conditioned flower garden which will play host to ethnic musical happenings. Hebrew is a must for this festival, too. Shows run from 7 p.m. to midnight.

In Rishon LeZion, the Wine Festival is on October 7 and 8. The city center is closed off to traffic while the stars come out to sing. Headliners include Yossi Banai in his truly incomparable *Banai Sings and Tells Brassens* (October 8), comedienne Orna Banai, singers Boaz Sharabi (October 7), Corinne Allal (October 8), Ahinoam Nini, and a salute to songwriter Ehud Manor with 12 vocal ensembles from all over the country. There's plenty of music on the free stages, as well as the traditional wine-and-cheese fair. Show times are from 8:30 p.m. to midnight.

October 8-10 presents the Parliament Arts Big Bang Festival of drummers. Oludum from Brazil and the Korean group Samulnori drum, play, sing and dance the music of their respective lands on October 8 and 10 at the Roman Theater in Caesarea.

Tickets to most of these events are available from the various ticket agencies countrywide and the hotels.

NEWS

of the muse

The new Anne Frank

The new Beersheba Theater production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, translated by the late Nissim Aloni and directed by Sinai Peter, is based on the original Frances Goodrich/Albert Hackett play, "but I've incorporated details which appeared in the unexpurgated version of the diary when it was published about 12 years ago," Peter says. These include Anne's feelings on her sexual awakening but mostly, says Peter, he has switched the emphasis to Anne herself, rather than Otto Frank's (Alex Peleg's) memories of her. His Anne, who also acts as a '90s commentator on herself, is Galia Shpring. There's also a musical Anne, violinist Noam Shos, who plays music by Shosh Reizman.

Beersheba decided to do the play long before those missing five pages on the apparently shaky Frank marriage turned up in the possession of former Anne Frank Foundation employee Cor Sujik.

The play opens in Russell Hall in Ramat Gan for previews and will move to Beersheba after the holidays. *Helen Kaye*

'A different kind of love story' at the Cameri

Tel Aviv's Cameri Theater opens its season October 2 with a new play by novelist Yitzhak Ben-Ner. Billed as a "different kind of May-December love story," *Uri Muri* examines the "glutted, alienated, intolerant and racist" society we've become through the complex web of relationships between Uri (Ilan Dar), his adopted Ethiopian daughter Muri (Mehereta Baruch), his wife Emi (Hannah Roth) and their two grown children. Muri's arrival, writes director Rami Danon, exposes the sores of this dysfunctional family and of our society. It also looks at how the Ethiopian Jews have fared in the country that brought them here with much fanfare and then basically let them rot. *Helen Kaye*

Assassins on stage

It is entirely not coincidental that a concert version of the Steven Sondheim/John Weidman musical *Assassins* will open at Beit Lessin on October 30, a few days before the third anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. Translator/director Ohad Ashkenazi says that there is an uncanny resemblance between the personality profiles of Yigal Amir and John Wilkes Booth, the slayer of Abraham Lincoln.

Booth is a character in *Assassins*, a sardonic vaudeville on actual and wanna-be presidential assassins, dubbed by critic June Abernethy as a blistering commentary on America and the American Dream. The play takes place at a gun booth in a fair-ground where the assassins are exhorted to try their luck by the Proprietor (Eli Gorenstein).

Aki Avni is Booth. Other leading roles are Igal Naor as Samuel Byck who tried to kill Nixon in 1974, Hani Nahmias as "Squeaky" (Lynette) Fromme who tried to kill Gerald Ford in 1975 and Sassi Keshet as the Balladeer, or narrator and commentator of the musical.

The critics more or less panned the play and the public stayed away in droves when *Assassins* premiered in New York in December 1990. In light of the Gulf War, the musical was seen as negativistic and unpatriotic. It ran for only 73 performances. *Helen Kaye*

When jazz is world music

By HELEN KAYE

Last year the Tel Aviv/Tower of David museum jazz series (on rising young stars played to full and enthusiastic houses. This year's series, from November to June, is called *World Jazz* and pays tribute to the influence of World Music on the genre.

Pucho (Henry Brown), 60, is the veteran of the series. A master of the Latino jazz style, he plays the timbales (a member of the drum family), and opens the season with pianist John Sprulli.

The youngest musician is probably 24-year-old vibraphonist Stefan Harris (May) who's been recording as a session musician since he was 15. This year, he makes his own debut album with Blue Note. He's appearing in the series with drummer Rodney Green.

Percussionist/composer Mino Cinelu (December), who started his career with Weather Report in 1984, will play with the Esta quartet, four Israelis who've just come home after six successful years in the US.

In January, the Walter Blanding Quartet - Blanding is the young immigrant American saxophonist

who inspired the first series - hosts trumpeter/composer Eddie Allen and Honduran-born Roland Guerrero on congas.

In March it's steel drummer Othello Molinieux who's been performing since 1976 at festivals all over the world. Playing with him is the year-old Jerusalem Steel Band led by US immigrant Jeffery Kowalsky, as well as Venezuelan pianist Silvano Monasterios.

The series ends with Senegalese percussionist Mar Gueye, who performed with the World Saxophone Quartet of which saxophonist/poet/composer Oliver Lake was a founding member. Gueye and Lake are performing with bassist Yossi Fine and his Ex-Centrics, another of the Israeli ensembles which, this year as last year, share the stage with the visitors.

Each group has three concerts, two in Tel Aviv and one in Jerusalem. A package costs NIS 520 (NIS 55 less if you subscribed last year) and a single concert NIS 95 in Tel Aviv. In Jerusalem the prices are NIS 90 and NIS 450 for the package (NIS 50 discount for those who qualify).

Israeli music has its day

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The idea of an Israeli Music Day is more than important and most welcome. In fact, it should be made into an annual tradition. But the question that immediately arises is what kind of music should be performed on such an occasion.

The event - a series of concerts and related performances - takes place tomorrow at the Jerusalem Theater complex and this year will be devoted to composers who have won the Israel Prize.

Such a choice sets rigid and obvious parameters and is sure to ignite debate over whether these composers actually showcase Israeli music at its best. Each time the Israel Prize has been granted it has opened up a Pandora's box in the local music world where one can find many more enemies than friends. Be that as it may, there is a fine varied program on this occasion.

The fact that Odedo Pintos is the only composer featured twice on the program is more than revealing. Pintos is a much-loved composer and his *Psalm* and *Yekkor* are very appealing, with a clearly defined personal language that is rooted both in his European background and local music traditions.

Like Pintos, Paul Ben-Haim and Mordechai Seter are no longer alive, yet their works will be the highlights of this day-long event in which 10 orchestral works and many songs will be performed.

Living composers like Menahem Avidon, Ben-Zion

Orgad and Abel Ehrlich are somewhat less interesting, while the music of Yosef Tal and Andre Hajdu is always a pleasure to listen to. Last, but definitely not least, comes Arie Shapira, the most controversial and youngest composer to ever receive the Israel Prize. Many consider him a third-rate charlatan of a composer, while others maintain that he is a genius.

But whatever one thinks of Shapira, there is no doubt that his music will breathe some fresh contemporary air into a program well anchored in decades gone by. And it is a real pity that the younger generation of Israeli composers is not represented here at all.

Maybe next year's program should be devoted to composers who might eventually win the Israel Prize. That could be much more intriguing and provocative.

The Israel Music Day is a festive event no music lover should miss. It will be a worthy testament to the numerous engaging and beautiful scores written in our land. One wonders why the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra is absent here, as well as some other musical bodies like the Israel Camerata Jerusalem. Such omissions, whatever the reasons may be, should not be repeated in the future.

Israel Music Day takes place tomorrow at the Jerusalem Theater complex with concerts at 2, 4, 6 and 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. All concerts will also be broadcast on the Voice of Music radio network.

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The Clinton video

For many people, the last two days were devoted solely to the observance of Rosh Hashana; they were therefore isolated from the international media circus surrounding the broadcast of the videotape of US President Bill Clinton's August 17 grand jury testimony.

Those people didn't miss anything. In fact, they can consider themselves lucky.

Despite the hype and drama preceding it, the Clinton videotape was a pathetic and embarrassing invasion of privacy, beaming questions of the most intimate nature to living rooms around the world.

And ironically, the broadcast's net effect was the opposite of what the Republican members of the US Congress intended when they voted to release the videotape: The latest polls indicate that support for Clinton rose in the aftermath of the broadcast.

No one can deny that the videotape's broadcast was an extraordinary event: The testimony formed a major part of what is, in America, usually considered confidential evidence before a grand jury; moreover, it involved a sitting US president submitting to grilling questions from a team of prosecutors.

Those pushing for the release of the tape, out of partisan political interests, disregarded the dangerous precedents such a move would set, because they were convinced that a televised picture of the president evading questions, and splitting hairs over the meaning of common words in an attempt to avoid perjury charges, would be worth more than a thousand printed documents.

But they apparently forgot a few basic rules of mass psychology. For one thing, a worldwide television audience raised on LA Law-style fast-paced fictional court drama does not easily sit through four hours of real-life, dry legalistic proceedings. There were no simplified dramatic issues graphically depicted, the camera never moved, the sound quality was terrible, and the outstanding issues were not resolved within 50-minutes-plus commercials. In short, this was bad television.

Even the fact that many of the questions were of a sexual nature only made the spectacle more pitiful, because knowing that this was not fiction, but the probing into the private life of a real

person elicited sympathy, not prurient interest.

Yes, Clinton's penchant for legalistic hair-splitting was highlighted by his arguing over the exact meanings of such words as "is" and "alone." And the discrepancies between Monica Lewinsky's testimonies and Clinton's evasions and selective memory lapses were also evident.

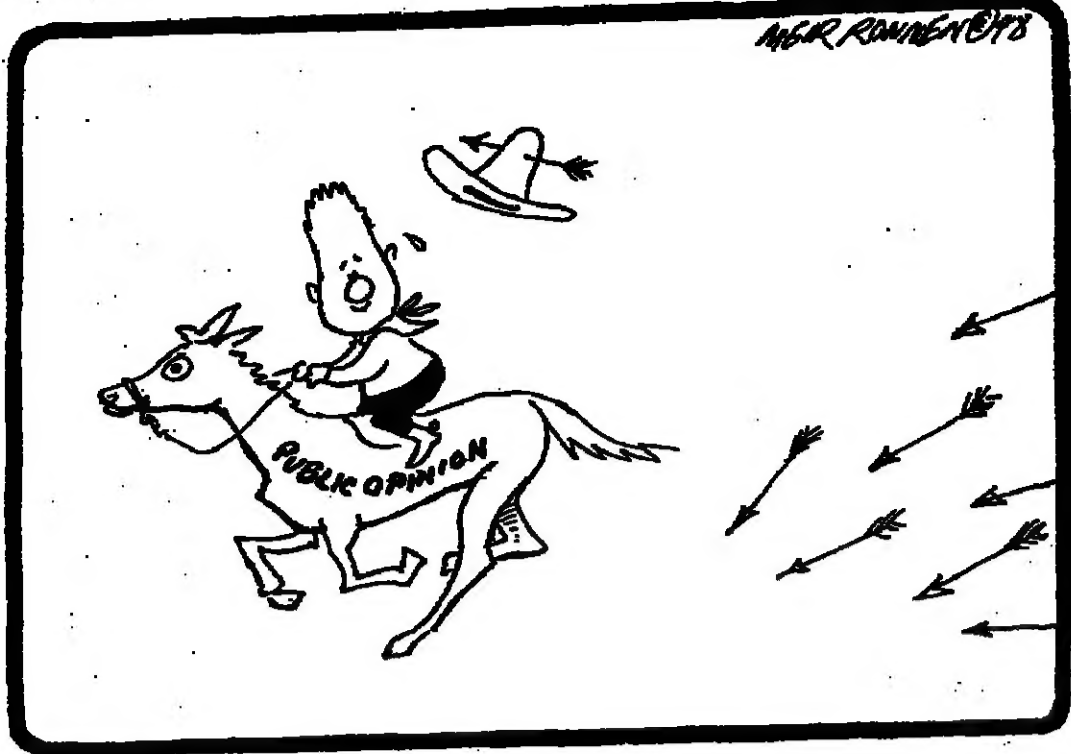
But all of these things were well known long before the broadcast, from independent counsel Kenneth Starr's report and countless leaks to the press. Indeed, the amount of information released in this case is staggering, including hour-by-hour timetables of the Clinton-Lewinsky liaisons, banal handwritten love letters, and lists of neckties sent by Lewinsky to Clinton as gifts.

The broadcast added nothing to all this. Instead, it depicted Clinton as a person painfully and humbly being forced to talk before a world-wide audience about the sort of intimate matters virtually everyone keeps intensely private.

But this sympathy factor should only be of limited comfort to the White House. The telecast of Clinton's testimony dragged the image and credibility of the office of the president of the United States, already badly damaged, further through the mud. Clinton may indeed have received a standing ovation at the United Nations General Assembly for his speech there - which took place at the same time his testimony was broadcast - but it was clear to all what was the real focus of the world's attention.

Indeed, judging by reactions from various countries, many people throughout the world don't understand why the US is doing this to itself. The US presidency is a pulpit largely dependent on the mystique of power and moral authority built around it over generations. The loss of that mystique will be to the detriment of the US and much of the free world for a long time, even if Clinton were to be replaced. That all this comes at a time when the world is in need of economic and strategic direction, does not augur well.

It can only be hoped that during the coming year of 5759, the political leadership in Washington will find a more dignified way of ending this whole sorry episode in American history.



Shas's free gift

EVELYN GORDON

Tirosh, director of the city's educational authority, stated explicitly that the main impetus for the plan is to stop the drain of pupils into Shas schools.

There are, of course, a number of alternatives to Shas nursery schools already, run by the city, by women's organizations such as WIZO and Na'amat, and by other private organizations. The problem is that all of them are beyond

Until Shas came along, nursery schools were only for the rich

a poor family's means. Most of these programs charge a monthly NIS 1,000 for a full day and NIS 610-850 for mornings only. Shas nursery schools, in contrast, charge merely a token fee, and they throw in transportation and a hot lunch on top of it.

FOR all the lip service Israel pays to equality and social justice, the fact is that until Shas came along, nursery schools were only for the rich. It is unlikely that this would ever have changed were it not for the Shas challenge. Now that Tel Aviv has decided to follow Shas's lead, however, other cities will probably do so as well.

Furthermore, Shas's aggressive competition seems likely to have a similar impact on elementary and high schools. While Israel officially has free compulsory education, the free part, as any parent knows, is largely a myth. There is no tuition, but parents must buy their children's books, and they must also pay a host of other fees cov-

ering services from health care to field trips. The result comes to hundreds, and often thousands, of shekels per child per year.

Compounding the problem is the fact that most schools operate only four or five hours per day. If parents want additional hours of schooling for their child, they must pay for private lessons the so-called gray education system.

At Shas schools, in contrast, books are provided for free, and the school day is often as long as eight hours at no extra cost. Furthermore, unlike in the state school system, pupils also get a hot lunch. And the teacher-to-student ratio is generally much lower than the one teacher for every 40 students common in the state schools. Is it any wonder that more and more low-income families are choosing Shas schools for their children?

The sad part of this is that much of the criticism leveled at the Shas school system is justified. From the point of view of Shas leadership, the success stories among its graduates will be those who do not go to the army, do not enter the work force, and in general take from the state rather than giving to it. But complaining about this won't help. The only way to fight back is for the state and state-religious educational systems to give their students the same benefits the Shas schools do.

The Tel Aviv municipality seems to have figured this out already though the road to implementation may still be a long one. Hopefully, other cities, and the national government, will soon follow suit.

A truly free education system, starting from the age of three, would indeed be a wonderful gift to all Israelis. And if it ever does happen, the thank-you note should be addressed to Shas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLINTON'S BAD EXAMPLE

Sir, - Thank goodness Bill Clinton is president of the United States. If he were a high school teacher, or a principal, or if he were a college president, or if he were the sales manager for an automobile dealer, or if he were a sergeant or even a general in the US Army, or if he were the CEO of a successful company, he would have been fired for having had and lied about an eighteen month sexual affair with a young person in his employ. But because Bill Clinton is the president of the United States, the commander-in-chief, and some say because he is elected by the people, a bizarre argument, he is excused for his "inappropriate" behavior and we are to let him get on with the business of the country because he is so brilliant and we need him.

Japan needs him, Korea needs

him, Indonesia needs him, Russia needs him, Kosovo needs him, Congo needs him, the Middle East needs him, Ireland needs him, and Wall Street needs him too. And education in American needs his leadership, and solving Social Security needs his leadership too, and the list goes on.

We are called upon to trust him, even though with his finger in our face he lied to us. And so we are asked to say to Ken Starr, "Drop it. We don't want to know any more, the president has the country's business to do."

We have come to believe that "we are a country of laws, not of men," but who makes the laws? and to serve what ends? and to serve whose interests? There is something of a circle here, vicious or not. Perhaps we are a country of men after all, though far less obvi-

ous than the crudities of the past. Not being trained in lawyering and the impenetrable legalese known to that trade, it is most confusing trying to follow the arguments that judge ordinary folks one way but the president quite another.

One thing for sure, Bill Clinton has surely set a new example for young people, to not only lie about "inappropriate" behavior, but worse to seek the highest office in the most powerful country in the world, without any concern for moral integrity, because the polls say, that when it comes to "running the country" (an interesting myth) the majority of Americans don't care about "inappropriate" behavior or character faults. It doesn't matter at that level.

ROBERT ODEAN

Ra'anana.

STAR OF JERUSALEM

Sir, - As a devoted reader of your paper, I have been following Yasser Arafat's many overseas trips to secure support for creating a Palestinian state, especially his recent meeting with Nelson Mandela in South Africa (August 12).

During his visit, he presented Mandela "with a Star of Holy Jerusalem medal."

I would very much like to know, what is "the Star of Holy Jerusalem?"

What is the origin of this medal? Is this an official representation of Jerusalem? Does it have a religious affiliation?

I am sure that other readers would also appreciate learning the facts to my above query.

JUDITH ENGELSTEIN

Tel Aviv.

GERMAN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

Sir, - Reading the succession of articles about the Holocaust Memorial to be - or not to be - erected in Germany, after much resistance I decided I had to express my feelings about this subject.

I am a survivor of the Holocaust and several members of my family were not so fortunate. I have visited many Holocaust Museums and memorials around the world, and am a friend at Yad Vashem. But I abhor the idea of a memorial in Germany in general, and next to Berlin's Brandenburg Gate in particular. There is no monument possible in this world that could adequately or even remotely present to the Germans what they have done. If there were a way to show to them without interruption on a huge screen reaching to the skies the thousands of testimonies recorded by Steven Spielberg, or march all German youngsters through the

Children's Memorial at Yad Vashem, and having them identify with the millions of flickering shiny souls there, perhaps that would have a slight effect, but no memorial man can design will ever measure up to the horror of the German slaughter.

Furthermore, a memorial would be a welcome outlet for the rising neo-Nazi movement, what a splendid place to deface, to sabotage, to ruin, to throw dirt onto!

However, I don't think we have to worry much. The prevarications of the successive German government bodies and politicians will delay perhaps forever the erection of a monument to the Holocaust anyway. All of us survivors will leave this world long before - if ever - the Germans will really and sincerely bow their heads before our memory.

ANNA LEVIN

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On September 23, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that four persons traveling in a UN convoy to Jerusalem, including a woman and Mr. John Lewis, an American railway expert, were massacred by Arab Legionnaires at Latrun road junction.

Former members of Irgun Zvai Leumi began enlisting in the IDF

at the Mobilization Center in Jerusalem.

Dr. Ralph Bunche, the acting UN Mediator, arrived in Jerusalem and was provided with a Military Police Guard.

25 years ago: On September 23, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported that the West African

state of Togo had broken its diplomatic relations with Israel - the seventh African state to do so since February 1972. The President of Togo, who was congratulated by rulers of Algeria and Uganda, was likely to visit Libya shortly.

Alexander Zvielli

Religious war

YOSEF GOELL

In the mid-80s, the General Security Service rounded up members of a Jewish underground in the territories, whose central core was involved in planning the razing of the Moslem shrines on the Temple Mount.

In fact, the GSS interdiction came just in time to stop one such Jewish terrorist unit on its way, laden with explosives, to blow up the Moslem shrines. The motivation to "cleanse" the Temple Mount of its "defilement" by non-Jewish shrines is the epitome of the most extreme messianic stream in religious Judaism which, since the Six Day War, has interpreted the age-old Jewish religious dream of "rebuilding the Temple of Jerusalem" quite literally.

Since 1967, the mainstream Orthodox rabbinate has ruled that it is forbidden for Jews to tread on the huge platform, that is the Temple Mount, for fear of the "unpurified" defiling the ruins of the Temple destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE, and whose exact location is unknown.

This has enabled Israel's political leaders to grant a large measure of autonomy to the Moslem waqf over the Temple Mount and its two major shrines, the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque. A very small number of religious extremists dedicated to the rebuilding of the Temple, has ever since then tried to gain access to the Mount, but has, just as consistently, been repulsed by the police.

This group, which in the past numbered at most between several score to a few hundred, is distinct from the settler underground of the 1980s, but their goal in regard to the Temple Mount is the same.

Last week these groups held an annual rally at Jerusalem's International Convention Center which, for the first time, succeeded in attracting over 2,000 participants. They were addressed by the regular assortment of loonies who, in recent years, have been deeply involved in the minutiae of the architecture of the "Third Temple," the wearing of the High Priest's garments and the search for a pure red heifer whose ashes would be needed for the purification of those who would serve in the rebuilt Temple.

Much more chilling was the fact that the rally was also addressed by Yehuda Etzion, one of the members of the 1980s underground. He was joined by Hanan Porat, the NRP chairman of the Knesset Law Committee, and by greetings from the deputy minister of education, Tsomet's Moshe Feled. That member of the extremely secular Kibbutz Beit Hashita declared that "installing the values of the Temple into the entire school system is one of the most important tasks today confronting the Jewish people."

THE danger to Israel entailed not only in such renewed threats against the Moslem shrines and the uneasy status quo on the Temple Mount, but also in the fact that such rantings seem to receive the imprimatur of the elements ruling Israel today, should be ranked alongside the Iranian and Iraqi attempts to develop weapons of mass destruction aimed at us.

In the past eight decades, our conflict with the Arabs of Palestine and of the surrounding Arab world has been one of nationalisms. This conflict, which has given rise to one of the most impacted violent confrontations of the 20th century, has been bad enough. And the verdict is far from in whether this struggle has reached and passed its apogee in the present "peace process."

What is certain, however, is that anything that threatens to turn this conflict of nationalisms into a religious war between the Jews and close to a billion Moslems would increase the real existential threats to Israel exponentially. Every religion has its primitive nuances. At times they can merely be laughed off. At other times, however, they constitute a grave danger to their own peoples. The past decade and more has been a period of internal political conflict in Israel which has witnessed unprecedented and shameful pandering to the most extreme religious elements by both major political parties.

We may today be witnessing the first revolt against this shameful trend following last week's attack by Geshar's David Levy against the attempt by politicians - headed by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu - to harness the reputed electoral powers of the champions of kabala and other practitioners of voodoo Judaism.

The most urgent task for all our political leaders and hopefully for the responsible rabbinical and political leaders of Orthodoxy, is to dissociate themselves, mainstream Judaism and the State of Israel from any whiff of seeking to foment a religious war with Islam.

A political blessing

DAVID NEWMAN

The only surprise in David Levy's outburst against Shas's political manipulation of the elderly Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie was that it took so long in coming. After all, Shas has been eating away at Levy's North African electoral support for over 10 years - to the extent that Levy could well suffer a meltdown in the coming elections.

The truth is that despite his off-repeated threats, Levy has never competed as his own man in national elections. He has always been persuaded to return to the fold, in return for which he, and his party faithful, received a disproportionate number of positions on the Likud list.

For its part, the Likud used Levy as a means of gaining the continued electoral support of the North African community, where the former foreign minister has traditionally enjoyed grassroots support.

This has always been the major difference between Likud and Labor. The traditional Ashkenazi leadership of the Likud (with the single exception of Menachem Begin) has not had any stronger links or support amongst the Mizrahi community than their Labor counterparts. But they have been much more successful in promoting a small number of prominent North African leaders who, in turn, have done the ground work and brought in the votes.

Of these, David Levy has been by far the most prominent, although others, such as Moshe Katsav, Meir Sheerit and Prosper Azran also spring to mind. Not surprisingly, these figures all emerged in national politics after a period during which they served as mayors of their home development towns, thus commanding the allegiance of relatively large, local-based communities.

For as long as Levy could bring in the votes, it was obvious that the Likud would always acquiesce to his demands. But his ability to automatically command the sup-

port of these groups has dwindled over recent years, as Shas has become the most significant player at the grass-roots level amongst the Mizrahi population.

There were many who questioned Binyamin Netanyahu's wisdom in offering Levy so many places in the Likud lineup at the last elections, arguing that had Levy been forced to run in his own separate party, he would have barely obtained two or three Knesset seats.

Thus Levy is aware that as Shas continues to grow, his own political future is severely threatened. Why, after all, should the Likud make yet another deal prior to the next elections, if he cannot deliver the goods. Much more important would be to nurture the relations with Shas which, it would appear, will be the kingmakers at the next elections. So, on the day Levy came out with his condemnation of Kadourie, the prime minister made a great public show of receiving this venerable figure and receiving his blessing for the New Year.

But notwithstanding the obvious political implications of Levy's outburst, he has opened an important debate concerning the use of religious figures in general, and the elderly Kadourie, in particular, for political gain. Rabbis and politicians alike have joined in the general condemnation of this cynical use of religion, superstition and mystical beliefs as a means of drumming up political support.

OF course, those who have suddenly jumped on the bandwagon have been those who, like Levy, have suffered - or are likely to suffer - political defeat at the expense of Shas.

It was Kadourie's intervention that swung the race for the post of Beersheba's chief rabbi away from the local National Religious Party candidate and into the arms

of the Shas contender, brought in from Jerusalem and who, just by chance, happens to be Shas leader Aryeh Deri's brother.

Levy himself was annoyed at the fact that Kadourie had blessed one of the mayoral candidates in his own home town of Beit She'an, but had not afforded the same service to Levy's son, who is also competing for the post. It would, indeed, be the final humiliation for Levy if his own son were to lose in Beit She'an, the town where, for the past three decades, Levy has enjoyed the role of local godfather and patron.

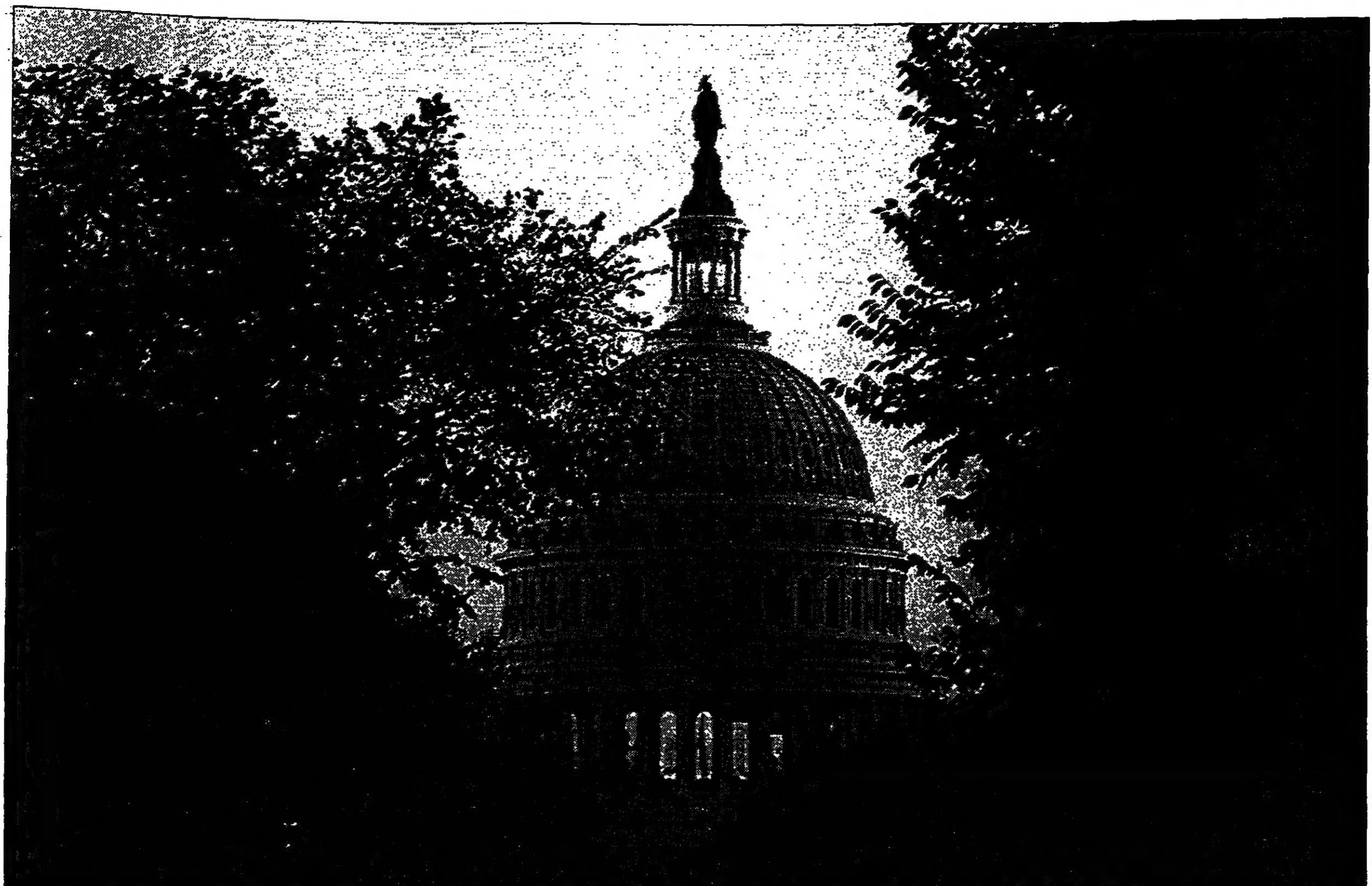
Labor, of course, has come out strongly in support of Levy's statement. As Shas grows in strength, the chances of a Labor return to power seems even more remote. Labor's leadership has been trying to attract Levy to their own ranks ever since he walked out of the current government and, no doubt, they believe they are close to finally catching him.

But it could well prove to be too late. Levy's grassroots support is slipping away. The development towns are likely to split their vote between Shas and the emerging Russian parties, leaving both of the major parties, and Levy, in their wake. The November municipal elections will be an important test of support and, once again, it looks like the big winner is going to be Shas.

Levy's intervention has come too late. It may even be that many amongst the North African community will now turn against him for having come out against a figure they venerate. In his attempt to join the enlightened world of western politics, Levy conveniently forgets that he, too, has spent the past three decades nurturing the beliefs and superstitions of this community for his own political gain.

Only now it has backfired on him, and there are other actors who do it even better. Levy has his back to the wall, facing what may be his toughest political battle yet.

Shadow Play



A light in the Capitol Dome means Congress is in session: Even at times of Presidential crisis, the nation's business gets done. How well is another question.

Stephen Crowley/The New York Times

Washington's Gears, Grinding

Surprise: Government's
Not Necessarily Paralyzed

By RICHARD W. STEVENSON

GIVEN the sheer volume of energy expended in weighing President Clinton's fate, given Washington's horrified fascination with every tawdry detail of his behavior, it would be easy to assume that the machinery of government and policy making has ground to a halt.

But on Capitol Hill last week, the Republican-controlled Congress began consideration of a tax cut, renewed its efforts to limit some late-term abortions, started wrapping up the spending bills needed to keep the Federal Government operating and pushed ahead with an overhaul of the bankruptcy system.

Hobbled though he may be, President Clinton set in motion an international effort to contain the financial

crisis that began last year in Asia, considered a plea from the Pentagon for more money, received a report from his advisory commission on race and directed that the Government purchase only recycled paper.

It was hardly business as usual, and the effect of Mr. Clinton's woes on Washington will only grow with each Congressional move toward impeachment. At risk in particular are efforts to set the nation's course on big, evolving issues that require strong Presidential leadership, like shoring up Social Security or dealing decisively with ethnic conflicts and terrorism. Already, some Administration officials admit that it is all but impossible to get the attention of the President or top White House staff, boding ill for any policy initiatives working their way up the chain of command.

But the Federal Government has tremendous mo-

(Continued on Page 12)

Behind the Scenes, There
Are No Wise Men Anymore

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

WHEN Speaker Newt Gingrich was hitting rock bottom in facing the House's ethics reprimand last year, he resorted to a time-honored insider technique: He reached out privately to one of the capital's political "wise men" — to an elder of the rival Democrats known to offer stricken combatants confidential advice beyond the bounds of partisanship.

"I got Gingrich together with Bob Strauss," recalled Vin Weber, a Republican ex-Congressman from Minnesota who, working the subtler ways of politics, arranged for the Speaker to break bread with Mr. Strauss, a syrup-smooth, battle-scarred sage from the Carter era who offered a recovery prescription of sorts.

Similarly, Mr. Strauss, who has ranged over the years from Democratic Party chairman to ambassadorial missions, was privately called to the White House for advice in President Ronald Reagan's confrontation with Congress over the Iran-contra affair. He was also summoned to join President George Bush's private gathering of wise men, if only for reasons of bipartisan ritual, as the invasion of Iraq loomed. So, then, with President Clinton now passing through the political valley of darkness, surely he must be calling on Mr. Strauss or some such capital elder to help find the best way out for both himself and the nation, right?

Mr. Weber, who is very close to Mr. Strauss, thinks not. "I hate to say it, but I wonder if this President has ever been willing to listen to that sort of adviser," he said. When in extremis in the Lewinsky sex scandal,

Continued on Page 12

Shaky Crutch for the Learning-Disabled

By TAMAR LEWIN



Preparing to take the bar exam at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in July.

OVER the last decade, learning disabilities have moved squarely to the foreground of the education world: more than 5 percent of the nation's students now have diagnosed learning disabilities.

Hundreds of thousands of students in elementary schools, colleges and graduate schools get accommodations like extra time on tests, note-takers or quiet rooms to work in. When New York State gave the bar exam in July, more than 300 students received special treatment.

And last week, a Federal appeals court in Manhattan ruled that the New York Board of Law Examiners had illegally discriminated against a learning-disabled law school graduate who was refused accommodations on the bar exam in 1993.

But with the entry into the professions of the first large wave of learning-disabled students accustomed to accommodations, the impact of the disability laws is still a big unknown. Even as debate continues to rage

about affirmative action, learning disabilities present a special conundrum for employers, who are unsure about how far to bend for people whose disabilities might affect their job performance.

The law tries to provide a balance: On one hand, the Americans With Disabilities Act, which went into effect in 1992, forbids employers to discriminate against people with disabilities, and requires them to make reasonable accommodations. So a company cannot refuse to hire someone simply because he is blind, and may be required to adapt its workplace to accommodate a blind person.

On the other hand, employers are not obliged to hire someone who doesn't meet the qualifications for the job, so no one needs to hire a blind person as a truck driver.

But the line is hard to draw in professions that involve a lot of reading and writing — where precise qualifications are hard to pin down. How important is it that a third-grade teacher spell well? Or that a journalist read quickly? Are there ways to

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Holler Than Thou
Afghanistan gives Iran a taste of its own medicine.
By Elaine Sciolino **10**

Hey, Japan! Go Crazy!
The responsible course may be irresponsibility.
By Michael M. Weinstein **11**

Over the Top
When Pentagon planning turns laughable.
By James Risken **10**

The extravagant planning also serves as a "gut check" for the civilians, Mr. Gates argues. "It's a test that allows the military to ask: 'Are they serious about wanting this? Or are they just playing political games?'"

Mr. Ferrara himself described the scene in the notion of uninitiated press. "I was the experience of making the film," he said. "I was the one who was asked to do the film since the girl was the victim of a double homicide."

Ideas & Trends

Newfangled Econ 101: Throw Caution to the Winds

By MICHAEL M. WEINSTEIN

THE Japanese are well versed in the art of fending off American accusations, including the perpetual hyperventilating over Japan's protectionist trade policies. But nothing from the past could have prepared the Japanese for the latest salvo by several prominent American economists who say the Japanese Government has been insufficiently reckless.

By running an overly tight monetary policy, these economists say, and by driving down inflation, the Government has inadvertently contributed to a downward spiral of prices and production that has cost the Japanese nearly a decade of growth and added to economic turmoil throughout the region and beyond.

To make amends, the Government must now "credibly promise to be irresponsible," says Paul Krugman, a professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. By that he means the central bank should embark on a crash program of printing yen — creating not only inflation today, but also the expectation of inflation tomorrow and an indefinite number of tomorrows into the future.

Radical Advice

Faced with a financial crisis that has swept from Asia to Russia to Latin America, President Clinton and finance officials from the major industrialized powers suggested last week a concerted effort to emphasize growth over inflation fighting, presumably by cutting interest rates. These officials do not want to spur inflation, though it might be an unintended consequence of fighting off recession with looser monetary policies.

Mr. Krugman, by contrast, embraces inflation as an economic cure for Japan's malady. And at a moment when a quarter of the world's population is living through recession or worse, there is good reason to focus on Japan. Solving the growing financial crisis in Latin America requires resolving economic chaos in Asia. And to solve Asia's problems requires re-establishing Japan as an engine of regional growth.

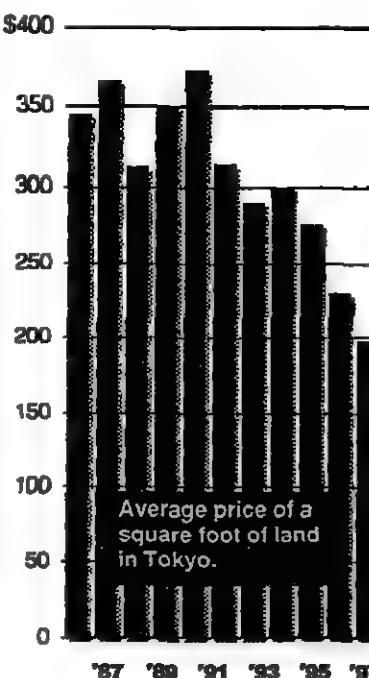
Mr. Krugman's pious prescription sounds wacky enough to Western ears, but to the decorous, orderly Japanese, it probably sounds quite mad. Prof. Koichi Hamada of Yale University giggled when asked to contemplate how Mr. Krugman's formula would be received by most of the officials who run Japan's central bank.

But as Mr. Krugman points out, Japan's desperate plight cries out for unorthodox solutions. And there are signs that his ideas are making inroads: A prominent Japanese lawmaker recently embraced the notion of setting an inflation target.

Let's step back. The Japanese economy, whose rapid and noninflationary growth was the envy of the world in the 1970's and 80's, has fallen into dire straits. Industrial production has stagnated for the entire decade. Wholesale prices have fallen over the past five years, an improbably long time for prices to drop in industrialized economies. Land values have crashed, undermining the

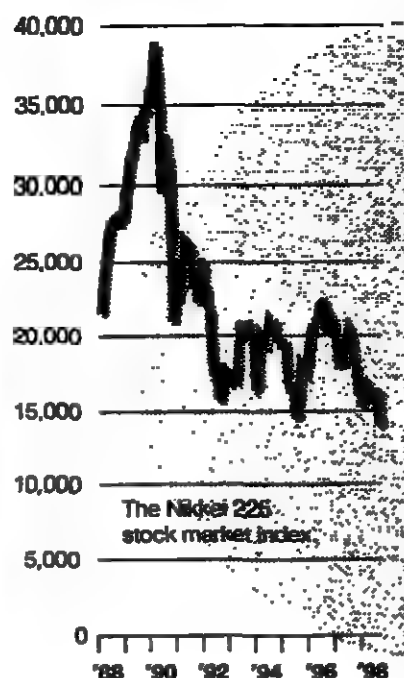
The Japanese Economy: No Place to Go but Up

JAPAN SUFFERS FROM SLUMPING REAL ESTATE PRICES ...

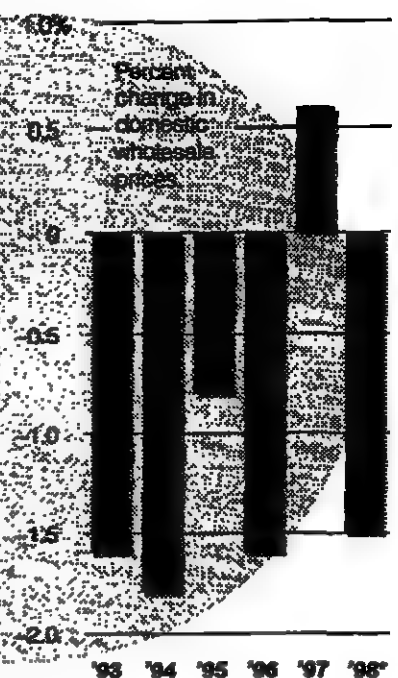


Sources: Bloomberg Financial Markets; Japan External Trade Organization

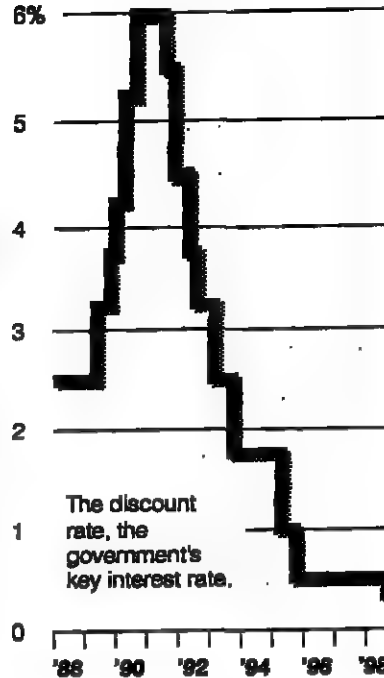
... A STOCK MARKET AT A 10-YEAR LOW ...



... AND PRICE DEFLATION ...



... BUT CANNOT LOWER INTEREST RATES ANY FURTHER



Through June.

The New York Times

solvency of banks whose loans are tied to real estate. Stock prices have also plunged.

Deflation can be just as economically corrosive as inflation. Falling prices create an expectation of future decline, which compels consumers and investors to postpone spending, setting off a self-sustaining downward spiral of production, income, spending and prices.

So what should Japan do? There are any number of ideas, but these are the four usual suspects.

Japan could close down its insolvent banks and bail out the others. Only then will the normal interplay between lenders and borrowers resume. A plan along these lines was announced last week. However, such restructuring takes time and provides only a partial solution.

The Government could try to spend its way out of recession by investing lavishly in infrastructure projects. But the Government has an unenviable record of building roads and bridges that go nowhere important, tailoring projects more to the needs of political cronies than to the

economy. And this, too, is only a partial answer.

Japan could cut taxes to boost spending. But the nation is aging quickly, and the Federal deficit will balloon as the elderly retire and draw pensions. So a tax cut today will have to be offset by a tax hike in the future. Japanese taxpayers know this and can be expected to prepare for the eventual hike by stashing money they temporarily save on taxes into their bank accounts instead of spending on consumer goods.

Start the Presses

The most popular way to stimulate spending — cutting interest rates — is impossible in Japan, because their rates are already within an eyelash of zero. The rate controlled by the central bank is already down to 0.25 percent, yet there has been no spending splurge.

Enter Mr. Krugman. He urges the central bank to drop its traditional mission of price stability and instead start printing however many yen it takes to generate

lasting inflation. The goal is to turn expectations of deflation into their opposite, scaring people into buying goods now before they become more expensive. This inflation policy would also spur investment by companies that could borrow yen that they know will be worth less by the time they have to repay their creditors.

Prof. Allan Meltzer of Carnegie Mellon University urges the Bank of Japan to pour out however much money it takes to stop prices from falling, a less extreme goal than Mr. Krugman's. Prof. Frederic Mishkin of Columbia University also wants to step on the monetary pedal, arguing that people would use the newly printed yen to buy land and other assets, thereby halting the slide in prices. He also says increasing the number of yen would drive down its value on foreign exchange markets and thereby boost exports.

These economists offer bold ideas. But, as Mr. Krugman says admiringly of his proposals, "Faced with a novel kind of economic malaise, the results of hard thinking deserve to be taken seriously."

Bowing Out

Ferraro's 14-Year Curtain Call

By AMY WALDMAN

PERHAPS more than any other issue, the 14-year gap since she had been in elective office — or run for Vice President, her claim to fame — dogged Geraldine A. Ferraro in her race for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate. She lost last week and declared her political career closed, which makes this the opportune time to reflect on what went wrong.

During her campaign, Ms. Ferraro cited her stint as a commentator on the CNN television program "Crossfire," her ambassadorship to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, her campaigns on behalf of other female candidates. But she could not shake the perception that what she had really done in that period — more than twice as long as she served in Congress — was be famous.

For New Yorkers, that was not enough. They gave one of her two opponents, Representative Charles E. Schumer, 51 percent of the vote against her second-place 26 percent in the race to face Alfonse M. D'Amato in November. In doing so, they apparently ended one of America's more peculiar political careers, one whose chief accomplishment appeared to be less doing than being. She will be remembered not for any bill she wrote, for any words she uttered, for any office she held, or for any race she won, but instead for a race she ran (and lost) — for being a woman in the right place at the right time, a creature of circumstance.

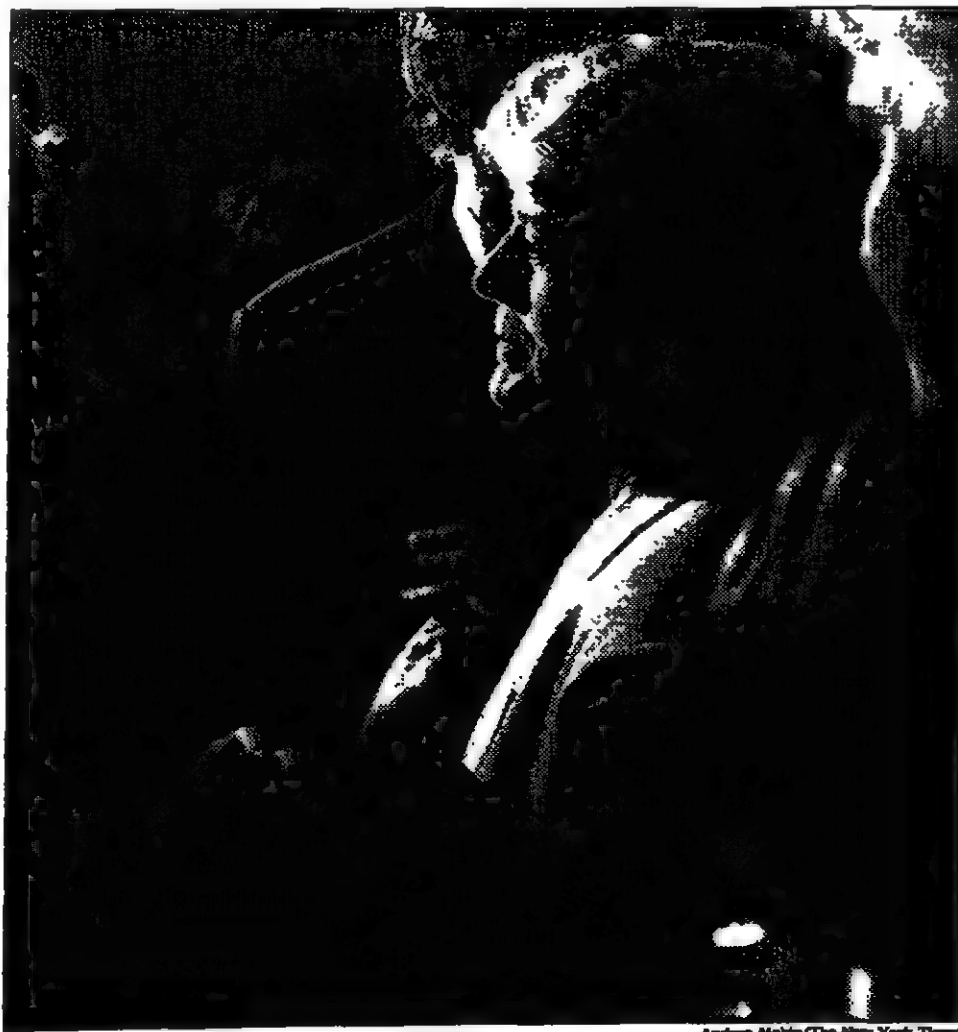
"Her party thought she was good enough to be President," one supporter said during the primary. But wasn't it at least as important that Democrats hoped she would help them capture the Presidency?

'Stature'

She went from being a three-term congresswoman from Queens to being an international icon; from then on, her achievements were far exceeded by what she frequently characterized during this year's campaign as her "stature."

Being, of course, counts for something. Ms. Ferraro's selection and her spunky persona did inspire women to get into politics, to aim for the top. Perhaps her campaigning did help some of them succeed. Even her presence on "Crossfire," argues Anita Perez Ferguson, president of the National Women's Political Caucus, made women "think they don't have to be a cookie-cutter model to be in front of the camera."

Mrs. Ferraro herself described as ridiculous the notion of unfulfilled promise and invoked the experience of another public figure. What, she asked one interviewer, had Colin Powell done since the Gulf war? Until the end, Ms. Ferraro's supporters said she was the victim of a double standard. Questions about what she had done lately, said



Geraldine A. Ferraro, after delivering her concession speech.

Patricia Schroeder, the former Democratic Representative from Colorado, "show how really easy it is to demonize women."

Walter Who?

If Ms. Ferraro was hurt by a double standard, she was also its beneficiary — it was, after all, what vaulted her onto the national stage, and what gave her far more attention and opportunities in the succeeding years than, say, the man she shared the ticket with in 1984 (Walter F. Mondale, who became Ambassador to Japan). And by offering the voters little reason to support her beyond her sex, she may, in some cases, actually have set back the cause by spawning a number of weak female candidates — including Betsy McCaughey Ross, another creature of circumstance, who lost the Democratic gubernatorial primary last week.

In retrospect, it is remarkable how much she seemed to take a purely political decision as a personal affirmation, as being about her and not the constituencies she

represented. Consider her new book, "Framing a Life: A Family Memoir," to be published next month. It is billed by the publisher, Lisa Drew/Scribner, as "the heartwarming story of four generations of Italian-American women," tracing the rise from her illiterate Italian grandmother to her Ivy League-educated daughters.

In fact, it is really Ms. Ferraro's story all over again; the other three generations are supporting cast. Her two daughters are not famous, but they are successful — one is a television producer, the other a doctor — yet in a book about the women in her family Ms. Ferraro never specifies their achievements.

Instead, she revisits her own childhood in great detail, then retraces her hard-fought entrance into the House of Representatives, her selection as the first female Vice Presidential nominee, her flaying by the press and Republicans in that race, and its reprise in her narrowly failed 1992 run for the Senate. The presumption, throughout, is that history will want to know. The unanswered question is how much it will care.

Disability Conundrum

Continued from Page 9

compensate — if, for example, the teacher has someone proofread her writing, and the journalist reads slowly but thinks fast?

The law school graduate at the center of last week's court decision, Marilyn Bartlett, did not mention that she had a reading disorder when she graduated from Vermont Law School in 1991 and got a job at Bower & Gardner, a now-defunct New York City law firm. But Dr. Bartlett, currently an educational administrator at Dowling College on Long Island, succeeded at the firm until she was forced to leave because she could not pass the bar exam.

"Because I read so slowly, I would go in at 7 A.M. and leave at 8 P.M., and only report an eight-hour day," said Dr. Bartlett, who ultimately failed the bar exam five times, never receiving the full accommodations she requested. "I read carefully and I don't think it made me a bad lawyer. There are blind attorneys, and attorneys with cerebral palsy, and attorneys with horrible stuttering, and that doesn't mean they can't be good attorneys who know the law and represent their clients zealously."

A New Issue

Thanks to the disabilities laws, people with profound physical limitations now make their way into every profession.

"We have lawyers with hearing impairments or wheelchairs, and the accommodations are obvious," said Sue Hastings, the partner in charge of hiring at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, a large Cleveland law firm.

The issue of lawyers with learning disabilities hasn't come up yet, Ms. Hastings said, but when it does, deciding on reasonable accommodations may be more complicated. For one thing, if someone works slowly it is hard to know whether it is due to disability or inability. "If it takes them 10 hours to do what takes someone else 2 hours, that obviously affects the bottom line and how quickly they could service their clients," she said.

Just how a learning disability will affect job performance is hard to predict. But some of those who license accountants, lawyers and doctors have begun to wonder, quietly, whether the increasing academic accommodation of those with learning disabilities will lead to career problems.

"There's no question in my mind that there are a lot of people who are just weak academically, or not that bright, coming out of the woodwork claiming learning disabilities," said the head of one licensing body, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "I worry what happens to all these people who are getting accommodations when they're out there in practice. Under the law, they may be entitled to extra time on tests or a quiet room to take exams in. But no one wants to be represented at trial by a lawyer who can't think fast on his feet, or land in the emergency room with a doctor who's too distracted to concentrate."

Jo Anne Simon, a Brooklyn lawyer who represented Dr. Bartlett, said such concerns were unrealistic. "Some of the best emergency room doctors, paramedics and cops are

those with attention-deficit disorder because they have high energy and function best in tense environments," she said. "There are all kinds of jobs even in one field. Emergency room doctors are a different breed from surgeons; tax lawyers are different from litigators."

And those with learning disabilities are often highly motivated, because they have had to struggle to succeed.

"Most people self-select away from situations they can't manage," said Jack Genuel, director of New York University's Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities. "Most people with learning disabilities know exactly what those are. But people should have the right to try and fail. Before the disabilities law, people who might have been able to succeed didn't get the chance. For many people with learning disabilities, large law firms are probably the most difficult area, since a lot of those jobs are all about reading or writing speed."

Advocates for the learning-disabled share stories about problems at such firms — a young associate berated for a draft document replete with spelling errors, or another who fell further and further behind, even working 15 hours a day, 7 days a week. But while learning disabilities have become more visible in schools, they remain largely hidden in private legal practice.

"As far as I know, we've never had either an applicant or a lawyer at the firm say they had a learning disability," said Robert B. Joffe, deputy presiding partner at Cravath, Swaine & Moore, a large New York law firm.

"If they're here, either they're compensating so well it isn't an issue, or they're struggling with a problem they don't want to advertise."

Knowing One's Limits

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy could name only one lawyer with a learning disability: Barbara Harmon-Schamberger, a Rhodes scholar who left the Manhattan firm in 1993 to become West Virginia's Secretary of Education. Ms. Harmon-Schamberger told the firm of her dyslexia, word-recognition disability and visual impairment only after she failed the bar exam twice and wanted to explain why. "Milbank was wonderful in accommodating me and it was very simple," she said. "I think accommodations are easier in the real world than in school. You know what tasks you can't do and find someone who can. So when I had to do line-by-line readings, they gave me a paralegal."

Still, she added, the only other lawyer at the firm who had learning disabilities was too embarrassed to disclose his problem. "There's still a stigma, a presumption of, oh, you must be stupid," Ms. Harmon-Schamberger said. "I will never forget when I was being turned down for accommodations on the New York bar exam, the secretary of the board told me, 'We have to examine you even more rigorously because, unlike attorneys who are blind or deaf, the client can't look at you and know he's getting an incompetent attorney.' That hurt."

ECONOMY

Spreading Global Risk to Unknowing Taxpayers

By LESLIE WAYNE

AS gyrations in emerging markets — from Asia to Latin America to Russia — cause sleepless nights for many investors, one group of politically connected and well-heeled financiers with big bets in these shaky regions can sleep better, thanks to the American taxpayer.

These well-rested folks are among the investors who have poured \$3.2 billion into emerging-market funds sponsored by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a little-known Government agency that mixes private capital with Government guarantees to promote American foreign policy goals. OPIC's investment flag is now planted in 140 developing countries — from obscure spots like Moldova and Botswana to nations at the center of today's global turmoil. No matter where it goes, though, OPIC has used the promise of eye-popping returns

Little-known Government agency attracts U.S. investors to far-flung spots.

and the protection of Government guarantees to attract American investors to far-flung spots.

As capitalism has spread, so has the program. With direct foreign-aid dollars dropping in the last few years, OPIC's investment funds have become a leading tool in the Clinton Administration's efforts to get fresh capital — quickly — to emerging democracies. When President Clinton took office, there were just two OPIC funds, one in Africa and one in Asia, with combined capital of \$100 million. Today, an assembly line of OPIC funds is churning in Washington: At last count, the number has risen to 26, with roughly two-thirds of the money coming from Government-guaranteed notes and the rest from institutional equity investors. By year's end, the OPIC program should swell to \$4 billion.

However noble the foreign-policy goals, OPIC is making big bets with taxpayer dollars that its investment formula will pay off either politically or financially — something that critics are questioning.

The funds buy stakes in emerging-market businesses. They are structured so that private investors — typically large corporations and pension funds — can invest with limited exposure to downside risk and, if their investments work out as expected, reap enormous gains. On the other hand, should every investment in all 26 OPIC funds fail, taxpayers would be on the hook for \$3.3 billion in interest and principal on the notes.

OPIC has spread its largess to many people with Government ties; the ranks of the funds' managers include leading campaign donors and former Government officials.

But a growing chorus of critics say OPIC funds often replicate what many in the private sector are already doing — without Government protection — and encourage excessive risks at taxpayer peril.

And to the frustration of many,

OPIC runs its fund program almost exclusively behind closed doors, seeing no need to make financial details about the funds public, even though it is a Government agency.

"OPIC is gambling in Las Vegas with someone else's money," said James Sheehan, a researcher at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, an economic research group in Washington. "This is a subsidy for risk-taking. If these investment funds were based on the financial merits of the investments, you would not need subsidies to make them happen."

OPIC's point of view is that it is guilty as charged and proud of it. The whole point of the program — which is modeled, very roughly, after successful domestic venture funds like Kohlberg Kravis Roberts — is to encourage investors to go where they otherwise fear to tread and to stimulate economic development on unfamiliar turf.

"OPIC is trying to induce investors to do things they are not willing to do on their own," said Robert D. Stillman, a private investor who, until last April, headed the OPIC investment fund program. "If investors are not willing to put money into Eastern Europe, we will make it attractive. We're encouraging capitalism where the U.S. has a foreign-policy interest and getting investors comfortable with these places."

OPIC funds are closed-end limited partnerships intended to build on private-sector market discipline — and capital. Each fund has slightly different objectives and different investors. Each is required to invest in companies overseas that either do not compete directly with American businesses or that help American companies. As in other venture capital funds, the money is invested for 5 to 10 years.

Right now, all eyes are on Russia. OPIC funds have committed a total of \$1.5 billion to the former Soviet republics, nearly half the program's investment kitty. Eleven OPIC funds are now in this region, to the dismay of some. "It is the wrong policy to be channeling funds into those countries where their economic policies are not correct," said Ian Vasquez, a director of economic policy at the Cato Institute, a research group in Washington. "We are rewarding governments for not undertaking reforms."

But Robert Peyton, manager of Agribusiness Partners International, a \$100 million OPIC fund with seven Russian investments, said the OPIC guarantee is important to him — now more than ever.

"I just got back from Russia, and we are in fundamentally sound businesses," said Mr. Peyton, whose fund has invested in a soft-drink bottler in Moscow, a sparkling-wine plant in Georgia, dairies in Moldova and Ukraine, and Russian cheese and poultry plants. "If the politicians can hold the country, we'll be O.K. Our investors are glad OPIC is there. If the Russian economy survives, these investments will turn out to be good. Today the OPIC guarantee is more important than three months ago."

Charles D. Toy, vice president of OPIC's investment fund program, said it was too early to assess any damage. Because OPIC funds have long-term investing goals, the final reckoning is as much as a decade away. Currently, Mr. Toy said, taxpayer exposure from OPIC's Russian debt is about \$400 million, because not all the money raised for these funds has been invested yet.

"It's a delicate situation," Mr. Toy

said. "The impact of the market turbulence is that we will be more selective. Clearly, this shows why OPIC is needed. If you want to continue to encourage foreign direct investment as the vehicle for economic reform in any particular country and there is perceived political risk, we have to support and enhance returns to encourage private sector equity to be put at play."

Those assurances emboldened the managers of Allied Capital International Small Business, at \$20 million the smallest OPIC fund. It has put money into small businesses including a pasta plant and a cannery in rural Hungary and a paging company in Brazil. If all goes well, the big payoff for investors will come in 7 to 10 years, when the businesses are sold or taken public.

"We wanted to do business overseas, but we didn't want to bet the bank on it," said Cabell Williams 3d, president of Allied Capital, a Washington-based private equity firm with \$650 million in assets under management. "Our investments so far have been terrific. We will have a phenomenal return. We'll make a bloody fortune. Private capital won't go to some of these places; it's too risky. Who is going to go to Botswana and invest money? You clearly need a 50 percent return to go there."

While OPIC doesn't promise 50 percent returns, it readily suggests that investors can expect 25 to 35 percent annual returns; such boasts can be made because the funds are not registered securities. A recent solicitation memorandum issued by the United States Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia, for a Caucasus region fund talked of returns in the range of "25 percent plus."

For every dollar of equity raised from investors — a group that has included Archer Daniels Midland, the Coca-Cola Export Corporation, Citicorp and Continental Casualty — OPIC typically provides a match of \$2 in Government-guaranteed notes, backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Some OPIC notes are bought by the funds' equity investors as a way of hedging their bets; any losses on their equity investment can be cushioned by gains on their OPIC notes. (Of course, some equity investors buy no OPIC debt at all.) Other buyers of OPIC notes are banks and insurance companies that are simply interested in owning Government agency debt.

Whatever the motivation of the note buyers, OPIC debt serves an other important purpose: to bolster returns to the equity investors. In say, a \$300 million fund made up of \$100 million in equity from institutional investors and \$200 million in OPIC notes, nearly all the fund's earning power goes to the equity investors. This means that their returns are far greater than what \$100 million alone could have earned. Only a small portion of the profits pays interest on the notes — which generally carry a coupon rate about 50 basis points above that of Treasury notes.

NOT surprisingly, the OPIC guarantee is a powerful lure. "There is no chance we would have thought about any of these investment funds without an OPIC guarantee," said Stanley Zax, chairman of the Zenith Insurance Company in Woodland Hills, Calif. Zenith has invested in OPIC funds in Poland, Southeast Asia and Israel. "The fact of the matter is you have OPIC protecting the debt, which is two-thirds of the fund, and then you are

getting the extra venture capital leverage of that debt. Without it, there was too much volatility in those markets."

Politics course through OPIC's fund program, traceable not only in the selections of countries to receive investment funds but, often, in links to the fund managers receiving lucrative contracts.

The enthusiasm with which the Administration has embraced the program is evidenced by the high visibility given to it by President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore: a West Bank fund announced at a 1996 White House meeting with Yasir Arafat, for example, and \$750 million pledged for two sub-Saharan Africa funds during the President's highly publicized tour in Africa this year and a \$120 million South Africa fund announced at a White House meeting in 1996.

But domestic politics gets OPIC's attention, too. Critics say there is a disturbing relationship between OPIC and major Democratic Party donors, often people who attended White House coffees or slept in the Lincoln Bedroom. Six funds valued at \$585 million were approved in the election year of 1996 shortly after sponsors of four of them had attended White House coffees.

"This program exploded just after the Clinton Administration came into office," said Paul Hendrie, communications director of the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonprofit research group in Washington. "And a large percentage of them are going to people with strong political connections or who made big contributions to Democrats in the last election."

Among those are David Bonderman, a Texas investor with stakes in two OPIC funds who gave \$140,000 to the Democrats in 1996. His business partner, Richard Blum, is a leading Democratic fund-raiser and the husband of Senator Diane Feinstein, Democrat of California.

Mr. Bonderman's investment firm was also named manager of the \$300 million Aqua International Partners fund, which has hired William Reilly,

'OPIC is gambling in Las Vegas with someone else's money,' says one critic.

director of the Environmental Protection Agency in the Bush Administration, as its hands-on manager. Like all OPIC fund managers, Mr. Bonderman's firm will get a management fee equal to 2.5 percent of the fund's assets and 20 percent of the ultimate profits, which can run into the tens of millions.

The big contributors also included the New York investor Dirk Ziff, who, with his brother, gave \$400,000 to the Democrats in 1996 and manages the \$150 million South Asia Capital fund. Alan J. Patricof, a New York venture capitalist who gave \$140,000 to the Democrats in 1996 and raised \$600,000 more, is manager of OPIC's \$40 million Israel Growth fund. And Maurice Greenberg, a leading Democratic donor, is chairman of the AIG Group, an insurance company that gave Democrats

\$245,000 and \$213,000 to Republicans in 1996. That year, AIG was named manager of the \$300 million AIG Brunswick Millennium fund, which has \$30 million of AIG money in it.

Mr. Toy, the OPIC vice president, said politics plays no role in the selection of fund managers, who are picked by OPIC after a solicitation and competitive review. "OPIC fund managers have to be sophisticated world players," he said. "Therefore, it comes as no surprise that many OPIC managers have acquaintances with people in government. But our final decisions are economic. No institutional investor puts \$10 million to \$12 million in a fund on the basis of who the fund manager knows."

Still, for all its Government ties, OPIC is loath to disclose financial information to anyone but fund investors. It will not identify to outsiders the funds' investments or institutional investors, the rates of return or any fund's current net asset value. This C.I.A.-like secrecy has frustrated even members of Congress.

"Getting information from them is like pulling teeth," said Shawn C. McBurney, assistant to Representative Ed Royce, a California Republican who is chairman of OPIC's oversight panel. "They dodge a lot and are not forthcoming. We can't get any information about this little agency that exposes the American taxpayer to enormous risk off in a corner of Government."

In fact, OPIC prides itself on being more like a private company than the Government agency it is. "As a public agency, we are charged with transparency," said Mr. Stillman, the former OPIC fund director. "But we have to attract private capital, and private investors don't want to disclose what they are investing in."

THE shards of information available, however, from interviews and some sites on the World Wide Web, show that some OPIC funds do what private investors are already doing — sometimes with the same fund managers. And this raises questions of why an OPIC guarantee is even needed.

Consider Newbridge Andean Partners, a \$160 million OPIC fund investing in Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia. To date, the fund has invested in a cable television venture and a gas distribution network in Venezuela. But it has also put \$6 million into bonds of a financially troubled Argentine maker of Nike and Converse shoes, which is being restructured by a non-OPIC sister fund, Newbridge Latin America, owner of \$80 million of its bonds.

Investor interest was so strong in a \$180 million OPIC fund, South America Private Equity Growth, that the fund's manager set up a second, \$37 million fund to make the same investments, but without OPIC guarantees. And when OPIC set up its Russian ventures, at least 28 other venture capital funds were also putting money there.

While some had ties to other United States and European government agencies, several were out-and-out private ventures, including those run by AT&T and General Motors pension funds. Junction Investors, a Boston-based group managing the \$92 million Caucasus Fund, has had funds in the Caucasus and Russia going back to the early 1990's. And New Century Holdings, which has a \$250 million Russian OPIC fund, also has three other venture funds in the region with more than \$400 million invested and a track record there dating to 1991.

PORTRAIT OF A FUND

The Africa Growth Fund

Started in 1987, the fund made its first investment in 1991 and is a 20-year, limited partnership. Its mission is to take equity and debt positions in a small number of high-quality African businesses. The fund's objective is a compounded return to investors of 12 to 15 percent or more.

Capital
■ Equity
\$5 million, \$1 million from each of five institutional investors.
■ Debt
\$20 million in U.S. Government-guaranteed interest-bearing notes.

Equity investors
■ Citicorp Sub-Saharan Investments
■ Coca-Cola Export Corporation (a subsidiary of Coca-Cola)
■ Kellogg Development (a subsidiary of Dresser Industries)
■ Lomax Development
■ Rockefeller & Company

Investments
■ Continental Acceptance, a merchant bank in Ghana.
■ Gaborone International Hotel, a Botswana hotel company.
■ Eden Roc Somiel, a gold mine in Ivory Coast.
■ Fidelity Resources, a vehicle leasing company in Ghana.
■ Africa Air Products, which refills oxygen cylinders and makes acetylene in Cameroon.
■ Central Glass Industries, a Kenyan bottler of beer and Coca-Cola.
■ Societe Ivoirienne de Torrefaction de Cafe, a coffee grinder, roaster and exporter in Ivory Coast.
■ Ghana Prawn Farm, an aquaculture farm.

Source: Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Even some OPIC fund managers question whether OPIC guarantees are needed. "We're delighted not to have OPIC in our new fund," said one OPIC fund manager, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "If you have the ability to raise money any other way, OPIC is not the best use of money for the taxpayer."

On that score, OPIC agrees. The agency, for instance, probably will not set up another Poland or Latin America fund, said Mr. Stillman, the former OPIC director. "Our goal is to work ourselves out of business," he said. "If we can get people comfortable with these places, they will come in and do their thing."

Some of OPIC's institutional investors have a business agenda beyond receiving an attractive rate of return on their money.

The Israel Growth fund has taken stakes in the country's burgeoning software business — including investments in two companies that later went public in the United States. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an investor in the fund, said it wanted to learn more about the high-technology business in Israel.

Still, critics of OPIC ask if all this business frenzy, especially with American taxpayers shouldering the risk, is a proper function of government. "If these are such good investments, then private money should go in and have all the risks and the benefits," said Douglas Bandow, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute. "If private enterprises want to do this, let them."

Venture Capital Funds, Backed by the Treasury

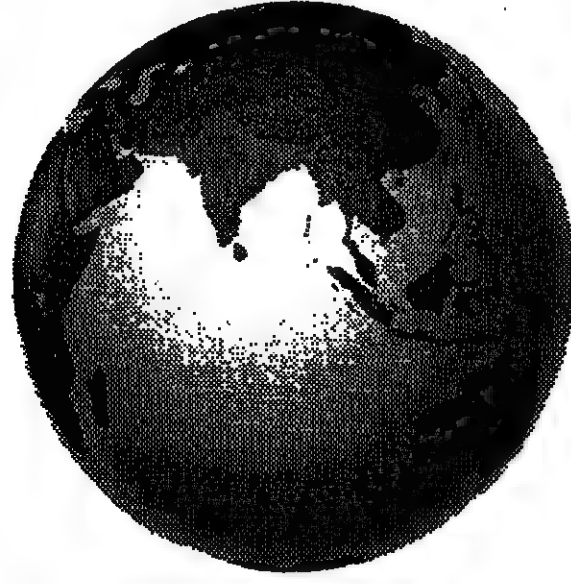
The investment funds of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation have become a favorite foreign policy tool of the Clinton Administration. A total of \$3.2 billion has been raised for the program, which mixes private equity with Government-guaranteed debt. The premise is that emerging democracies can be aided by long-term capital investment from America.



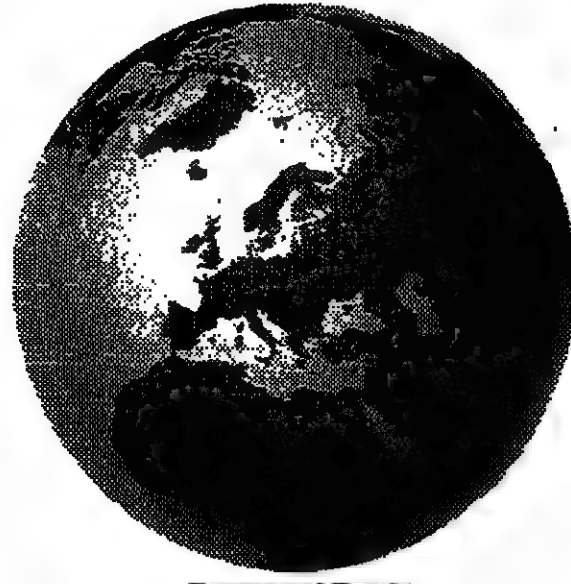
Latin America
Total funds committed
\$340 million



Africa
Total funds committed
\$440 million



India and Asia
Total funds committed
\$420 million



Europe and Russia
Total funds committed
\$1.56 billion

After a slow start, OPIC funds have burgeoned in the last few years, carrying the program deep into parts of the world that have been shaken lately by currency shocks, economic turmoil and market collapses.

Amount committed, in millions	
1997	\$25
1998	\$75
1999	\$25

Amount committed, in millions	
Global Environmental Emerging Markets	\$70
Israel Growth	40
AIG Brunswick Millennium	\$300
Emerging Europe	60
First NIS Regional	200
Poland Partners	65
Russia Partners	155

Amount committed, in millions	
Agribusiness Partners International	\$100
Allied Capital International	20
Small Business	20
Bancroft Eastern Europe	100
Draper International India	55
India Private Equity	140
New Century Capital Partners	250
PBO Property	240
South America Private Equity Growth	180

Amount committed, in millions	
Aqua International Partners	\$300
Global Environmental Emerging Markets II	120
InterArab Investment	45
New Africa Opportunities	120
Newbridge Andean Partners	160
South Asia Capital	150

Amount committed, in millions	
Modern Africa Growth and Investment	\$150
West Bank/Gaza and Jordan	60
Caucasus Fund	\$92

Note: Regional totals do not include funds that operate globally.

Source: Overseas Private Investment Corporation

The New York Times

THE JERUSALEM POST
The Jury Solution

In America
BOB HERBERT

Running In Place

A few months ago a guy said to me, "If the economy is doing so great, how come I'm broke?"

A new study out of Washington shows that there are an awful lot of Americans who might ask the same question.

The study by the Economic Policy Institute is titled "The State of Working America" and has been published in book form. It doesn't dispute that the economy has improved since the dark days of the early-90's recession, but points out that there are still enormous numbers of middle-class and working-class Americans who have little or no reason to celebrate.

The study's findings included the following:

The inflation-adjusted earnings of the median worker in 1997 were 3.1 percent lower than in 1989. Over that period, real hourly wages either stagnated or fell for most of the bottom 80 percent of the working population.

Median family income was \$1,000 less in 1996 (the most recent year for which complete data are available) than in 1989. Economists believe the final statistics for 1997, available later this week, will show some improvement, but only enough to bring the median income back to the 1989 level.

The "typical married-couple family" worked 247 more hours per year in 1996 than in 1989 despite an 8 percent growth in the economy's productive capacity. That's more than six weeks' worth of additional work, just to stay even or keep from falling too far behind.

The report notes that early this year unemployment fell to its lowest point in three decades and, very recently, real wages have begun to rise for most workers. But those improvements have come at the end of a prolonged period of wage deterioration and other setbacks that have had a profound effect on the standard of living of most American families.

According to the report, "The typical American family is probably worse off near the end of the 1990's than it was at the end of the 1980's or the end of the 1970's." It says, "To the extent that the typical American family has been able to hold its ground, the most important factor has been the large increase in the hours worked by family members."

Except for the very wealthy, we are in something less than a golden economic age. The heralded stock market advances of the 90's have primarily benefited the wealthy few, despite the increased popularity of mutual funds and the expansion of defined-contribution retirement plans. Most families own no stock at all. Those that do own stock usually have very small investments.

According to the Institute's study, more than 85 percent of the benefits from "the increase in the stock market between 1989 and 1997 went to the richest 10 percent of households."

The very recent and very modest gains in the real wages of American workers were largely linked to the tight labor market, which heightened the bargaining power of workers, and increases in the minimum wage.

Jared Bernstein, a co-author of the report with Lawrence Mishel and John Schmitt, applauded the policy decisions that led to those improvements. But he added that the low unemployment rate is a particularly "thin reed" for working families to hang onto.

"It's a cyclical variable," he said, "and the focus of the Federal Reserve has been imbalanced. It has been overly concerned about inflation and the erosion of the assets of the wealthy, and has not appreciated the importance of persistently low unemployment in reversing the long-term negative trends for working families."

As for the minimum wage, now \$5.15 an hour, the feeling of the Republican majority in Congress is that we have gone far enough. Senator Edward Kennedy has proposed raising it by 50 cents an hour in January, and another 50 cents a year later. That way, as the Senator put it, "the minimum wage will reach the level of \$6.15 at the turn of the century."

Some politicians will tell you that terrible things will happen if companies are required to pay American workers \$6.15 an hour in the year 2000. On Tuesday a key vote is scheduled on Senator Kennedy's proposal. The hunt is on for enough votes to save it.

One of these days policy makers will come to realize that you can't sustain a real boom if workers and their families aren't getting a fair shake. The value of low unemployment and an honest day's pay for an honest day's work should not be matters for debate.

The typical family is working harder just to stay even.

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سكرا من الاصل

Leaked eshd p

The Missed Moment of Truth

By Doris Kearns Goodwin and Richard Goodwin

CONCORD, MASS. — Far more troubling than the tawdry details of sex revealed by Kenneth Starr's report, or President Clinton's tortured efforts to hide behind legal ambiguities, is the orchestrated campaign of deception the President conducted in the days and weeks after the Lewinsky matter was revealed last January.

The small window that seemed to suggest he might come clean at the start (when he promised to cooperate fully with the investigation) was abruptly closed within hours, the Starr report reveals. The report says Dick Morris, the former Presidential adviser, told the President that an instant poll he claimed to have taken that first evening indicated the public would not accept a confession or explanation because of Mr. Clinton's previous statements in the Paula Jones deposition. "Well, we just have to win, then," the President told Mr. Morris, by Mr. Starr's account.

And so began an eight-month string of lying that, more than his sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky, will forever tar Mr. Clinton's Presidency. "I would never ask anybody to do anything other than tell the truth," Mr. Clinton assured the country. But no sooner had he made this pledge than, by lying to the men

and women who share in his Government, he engaged them in a wholly deceptive campaign to defend what he, but not they, knew to be lies.

For weeks Cabinet officers, the Vice President, White House aides and Democratic Congressional leaders — dedicated public servants who came to Washington in hope of accomplishments they might reflect on with pride for the rest of their lives — fanned out to defend Mr. Clinton. Even the First Lady perpetuated the lie. If a President had an affair and lied to cover it up, it would be "a very serious offense," she said on the "Today" show, but "the President has denied these allegations on all counts, unequivocally."

To be sure, there is a difference in kind when the cover-up campaign involves private sex as opposed to illegal activities, as was true in Richard Nixon's case. But the base campaign Mr. Clinton began on Jan. 21 clearly constitutes an abuse of Presidential authority, a deliberate decision to use the precious platform of the Presidency, the power of the President's word, the President's credibility and legitimacy, to present a false picture to the American public. In so doing Mr. Clinton also, by inference, asked the members of his Government to join in his lie. They were, it could be said, suborned — not by coercion or bribes, but by deception — to lie to the press and to the nation.

It is here that the President's private behavior intersects with his public behavior. While the sexual relationship may have been private, and while it may be true that private citizens often lie about sex, once the affair was revealed the President had a fundamental choice — to tell the truth, pay the price and move forward, or to engage in a destructive campaign of deception. Sadly, in

this crucial moment of choice, he opted for the latter. In so doing, he has ripped public attention from issues of far greater importance, discredited the Presidency, virtually paralyzed the executive branch, and betrayed those who came to work for him.

When Franklin Roosevelt said the Presidency is pre-eminently a position of moral authority, he was referring not to private moral behavior but to the President's ability to focus the collective will of the citizens on morally correct, socially just courses of action. Our Presidents are remembered best when they do precisely that — as Roosevelt did when he mobilized the nation to meet the threat of Fascism,

What Presidential deception has wrought.

as Harry Truman did in meeting the challenges of the cold war, as Lyndon Johnson did with civil rights.

Mr. Clinton's defenders argue that what really matters are the issues he has raised — Social Security, educational reform, health care. But a President's words are meaningless absent a sustained commitment to action, a resolute purpose, a willingness to fight before Congress and the country to reach his goals.

Perhaps campaign finance reform, the tobacco legislation and educational reform would have been defeated by Mr. Clinton's deception.

Clinton fought. But through his wasteful campaign of deception, Mr. Clinton lost the tools he might have used to win these important battles.

The power of the President's word is one of these, of course; another is the unmatched platform that allows Presidents to mobilize Government officials and the citizens at large to common action. If a President cannot call a news conference for fear of being asked embarrassing questions, he has no such platform.

More ominously, the President's deception has damaged our ability to take effective action on those world problems that only the President can seek to resolve. Weapons of mass destruction are proliferating at an alarming rate, in India, Pakistan, possibly even the terrorist world. The conflicts in the Middle East are as dangerous as ever, and perhaps more so. Unless the President acts on these issues, no one can.

Given Mr. Starr's relentless and obsessive pursuit of Mr. Clinton, the two no doubt would have fought some sort of climactic battle eventually. But had the President chosen to tell us the truth last January, we would have been spared much of what we have suffered at the hands of Mr. Starr these last eight months — the forced testimony of the Secret Service and the President's closest advisers, the draining battles over executive privilege, the publication of a lengthy report filled with private details few of us wish to know, and the impending release of a videotape made as part of a supposedly sacrosanct grand jury inquiry. Had the President chosen differently, he would have stripped Mr. Starr of his most powerful weapon: the claim that his office had a responsibility to pursue the truth.

It is time to stop hiding behind a false dichotomy of disliking the private behavior but liking the public performance. The President's decision to engage his White House aides, his Cabinet, his party, legislative leaders, the press and the citizenry in his campaign of deceit was a public decision that deserves public condemnation. The President's own wounds may have been self-inflicted. But the wounds to the nation and the political process — our wounds — were inflicted by the President.

Now President Clinton hears a choice at least as fateful as his January decision to deceive the nation. He can acknowledge something more important to us as citizens than the admission that he sinned. He can face up to the fact that he violated the authority of the President's office and the credibility of the President's word. He can try to repair this more fundamental breach, or find himself the isolated captain of a fatally wounded Presidency.

Note to Readers

The Op-Ed page welcomes unsolicited manuscripts. Because of the volume of submissions, however, we regret that we cannot acknowledge an article or return it. If manuscripts are accepted for publication, authors will be notified within two weeks. For further information, call (212) 556-1831.

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

Power of Attorney

WASHINGTON — It was inevitable, of course, that lawyers would destroy civilization. Shakespeare warned us to kill them all. We didn't.

And now Washington is in a psychosexual meltdown so insane that the rest of the country — and the world — can only watch in horror.

It's time to update the notion of the best and the brightest. It used to be politicians and their ambitious staffers who dragged us into our long national nightmares. Now it's top-flight lawyers who bollix up everything and make a ton of money doing it.

The capital is in a titanic twilight struggle between armies of lawyers. The President and First Lady came from a generation that believed the law was the highest calling. Now the First Lawyers owe more than \$6 million to lawyers who have given them bad legal advice and allowed Mr. Clinton to turn his White House into a lying machine for seven months and dodge behind silly, tortured legalisms about sex.

Like Tim Allen's tool man, who has tools to fix tools, this White House has a record number of lawyers, and more lawyers to fix the problems of its lawyers. It even has spinner lawyers to put the best light on stupid things the lawyers are doing.

The capital's independent counsels have grown Brobdingnagian. Congress is full of lawyers. Television is swarming with legal pundits.

The judgment exercised in Washington seems to be in inverse proportion to the number of fine legal minds involved.

Now David Kendall and Kenneth Starr are in a nasty little spat about who is to blame for subjecting the country to the videotape of the First Deponent squirming, dissembling, evading and blowing his top.

Mr. Kendall says Mr. Starr acted in bad faith. Mr. Starr says Mr. Kendall made a bad deal.

There is now a consensus that Mr. Kendall and the President blundered horribly — just as Bob Bennett and the President blundered when they failed to settle the Paula Jones lawsuit that ended up spawning Monica Lewinsky.

Legal experts, and some White House aides, agree that the President would have been better off doing the perp walk into the grand jury, or inviting the jury to the White House, so that no incendiary tape existed.

Mr. Starr may have outfoxed Mr. Kendall. But handing over the video-

tape he said he had made for absent grand jurors to Republicans, who are salivating over its potential for further embarrassment to the President, is another example of Mr. Starr's wretched excess.

The prosecutor videotaped the President's testimony, just in case any grand jurors missed it when it was broadcast live, via closed-circuit feed, from the White House to the courthouse.

Mr. Kendall tried to persuade Mr. Starr to agree to destroy the tape after it was played for the one or two absent grand jurors. (What could they have been doing that was more important?) But after the testimony, Mr. Starr refused, saying he would not destroy "evidence of a crime."

Instead, he shipped it to the Congress.

The avenging, evangelical prosecutor never seems to give a thought to how his relentless chase is riving the nation. He seems determined not only to overthrow the President, but to overturn the 60's, and restore the

Shakespeare was right.

black-and-white moral code that existed before the decade of sex, drugs and draft evasion.

Mr. Clinton is guilty of Orwellian language, but Mr. Starr is greasing the ominous Orwellian concept of sex crimes against the government.

"The Party was trying to kill the sex instinct," Orwell wrote in "1984," "or if it could not be killed, then to distort it and dirty it."

Lots of prosecutors set perjury traps and public relations traps. But Mr. Starr is treating the President of the United States like a Mafia don.

I doubt Mr. Starr would have destroyed the tape even if Mr. Clinton had told the uncomfortable truth.

As Jeffrey Rosen writes in this week's "New Republic," the Lewinsky affair is no longer a sex scandal, but a constitutional crisis. By allowing Mr. Starr to decide which crimes are impeachable offenses, the House creates "a constitutional aberration: a politically unaccountable and unconstrained officer who combines the functions of prosecutor, legislator, judge and jury."

It's not too late. Let's kill all of them.

SOLDIERS

Continued from Page 1

He and other soldiers apparently saw that the APC was close to the precipice and shouted for the driver to stop, but their warning came too late.

A large-scale rescue and recovery operation was mounted with the aid of elite troops and helicopters. The work on evacuating the bodies of the two soldiers continued throughout the night and well into the morning.

Galilee Division commander Brig.-Gen. Effie (Fein) Eitam told reporters at a briefing that rescue operations were made more difficult because of the threat of hostile activity and the extremely difficult topographical conditions.

He ruled out the possibility that gunmen had fired at the vehicles or detonated an explosive device in the area, saying there was no evidence of any "abnormal element" having caused or contributed to the accident. The weather was also not problematic at the time.

Eitam said that initial inquiries into the incident had not revealed any problems with the vehicle itself nor any "significant problems" relating to regulations and procedures.

"We will examine everything, including the human factor and the technical aspect [regarding the vehicle]," said Eitam.

He said this would include checking what the soldiers had been doing in the previous 12 hours, whether they had slept enough, as well as their knowledge of the vehicle and the area of operations.

"The unit has operated in this area, and some of the troops themselves had been in this area. This was not an activity which we had assessed as being a special operation or one with an abnormal degree of danger," said Eitam.

The APC was literally crushed as it tumbled over down the side of the cliff. One of the soldiers was flung out and the other was trapped in the wreckage.

Eitam described the rescue operation, which was supervised by OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazi, as extremely complex because of the circumstances in the field.

After the recovery of the bodies of the two soldiers, IAF warplanes destroyed the wreck of the APC.

In Lebanon, news agencies reported the destruction of the vehicle as an air raid, saying that four jets fired nine missiles at suspected infiltration trails and hideouts near the Litani River yesterday afternoon. There were no

reported casualties.

Around the same time as the APC incident, another soldier was accidentally shot by a colleague during a firing exercise in the Birmit area on the northern border.

The wounded soldier was moderately wounded and was evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital for further treatment.

The commander of the IDF's Ground Forces Command has appointed a team led by a colonel to investigate the incident. The Military Police have also launched an inquiry into the matter.

A few hours later, another IDF soldier was moderately hurt when he was struck on the head by the barrel of a tank at an outpost in the eastern sector of the security zone. He was also taken to Rambam Hospital, after treatment at the scene.

He stressed that there was no connection whatsoever between the three accidents, except that they had occurred within a short space of time, one after the other.

There was no firing by Hizbullah or any other groups at the troops involved in the rescue and recovery operation following the APC accident, although some long-range shooting at outposts in the security zone occurred later yesterday.

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said the latest release of evidence by the committee, including Lewinsky's testimony that she was not asked to lie or keep quiet, proved how "one-sided" Starr's referral was.

"In a 445-page referral, the Office of Independent Counsel found room for hundreds and hundreds of salacious details that vilified this country, and embarrassed this country and the world — but it didn't find room for one sentence for the testimony from Monica Lewinsky — exculpatory evidence that was not mentioned," McCurry said.

"That is a grievous wrong to the president and that is going to be addressed by a letter that the president's legal team sends to Judiciary Committee today."

Several Republican sources, said work had begun on drafting the terms of an impeachment inquiry, legislation likely to empower the panel to conduct its own investigation of the facts in the case.

It is likely that some action will be taken before Congress adjourns, said one Republican aide. Other officials said the likeliest time for a vote on the House floor was the week after next. Congress has set October 9 as its target adjournment date.

The disclosure came as Republicans

on the Judiciary Committee met to review the panel's work thus far, and plan its next steps.

Among the decisions to be made: the terms under which more than a dozen boxes of Starr's still-secret evidence would be released. These include grand jury testimony by several key figures, including presidential secretary Betty Currie, Clinton's friend Vernon Jordan and Linda Tripp.

Even as committee Republicans were meeting, officials were preparing for a session today in which Speaker Newt Gingrich, Republican leader Dick Armey, Democratic leader Dick Gephardt and the leaders of the Judiciary Committee would sit down to discuss the impeachment review.

ALBRIGHT

Continued from Page 1

He may discuss with Albright the possibility of arranging a summit with Arafat, Bar-Ilan added.

"We hope there will be enough movement to make a summit productive; no one wants a summit that will be disappointing," Bar-Ilan said.

Queri has conducted back-channel negotiations with Netanyahu, and PA sources acknowledged that they had reached agreement on IDF redeployment in the West Bank. That agreement, however, was rejected by Arafat.

The sources said Arafat did not respond to Erekat's request, but the two men were said to be meeting last night

in Gaza.

Arafat's relationship with Erekat is said to have been smooth over the last few years. In the early 1990s, Erekat was one of a dozen leading Palestinian figures that demanded that Arafat institute democracy and open government.

In 1996, Erekat accepted a cabinet post in the PA and has since become a leading spokesman for Arafat's government. He has become a daily fixture on PA radio and television.

Yesterday, Erekat again reiterated his call for the US to intervene to stop what he termed Israel's violence against the Palestinian people.

Erekat criticized the decision of the Jerusalem Magistrates Court to release to house arrest a settler from Dolev,

Avshalom Ladan, who was arrested in the shooting death of a Palestinian last week.

Ladan says he was attacked by Palestinians on his way to work and acted in self-defense. In Ramallah last night, about 120 members of the Palestinian National Council — more than a quarter of the body — held a session to discuss plans to declare an independent Palestinian state in May.

PNC Speaker Salim Zannoun said other meetings will be held in the Jerusalem and Jericho areas as part of a campaign to prepare Palestinians and supporters abroad for the declaration.

Batsheva Tsur contributed to this report.

THE ARTS

Chipping Away at the Myths of a Blues Legend

By TONY SCHERMAN

ALTHOUGH the great blues singer and guitarist Robert Johnson died 60 years ago, swallowed up at 27 by the rural Mississippi demimonde of juke joints and barrelhouses that spawned him, he looms ever larger in America's imagination.

Johnson had been dead for 23 years when an LP of his songs, "King of the Delta Blues Singers," was released in 1961. It became a sacred text to 60's folk and blues revivalists as well as to rock-and-rollers curious about rock's origins. "There has not been a better album in the history of the recording industry," wrote the critic Greil Marcus in 1975.

In 1990, after protracted legal wrangling, came "Robert Johnson: The Complete Recordings": two CDs, 29 songs and 12 outtakes. It was a landmark, the first time the music of the Delta blues legend was available in its entirety, briefly outshining Madonna, winning a Grammy and going on to sell more than a million copies worldwide. Fifty-three years after his death, Robert Johnson was a pop star.

The stewards of culture and entertainment are eager to tap his new audience. "King of the Delta Blues Singers" was reissued earlier this month, featuring a newly discovered outtake of one of Johnson's best songs, "Traveling Riverside Blues." Today, the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame kicks off a weeklong Johnson celebration in and around its Cleveland headquarters: concerts, a conference of scholars and writers (including this one) and a pre-release showing of "Can't You Hear the Wind Howl," a documentary about Johnson narrated by Danny Glover.

The better known Johnson's music becomes, the more there is at stake in scraping away the myths and distortions that encrust it, distractions from the only question about Johnson that really matters: What makes his music great? His apocryphal pact with the Devil, easily the best-known aspect of his legend, has little relevance to his music. Although it's his hip, especially since his rise to pop iconhood, to call him "the original rock-and-roller," the notion is unilluminating at best. More sophisticated,

but in the end just as mistaken, is the argument of revisionist blues scholars that Johnson is merely a link in the chain of Delta bluesmen. The only antidote to these misconceptions is to listen to Robert Johnson's music with as fresh an ear as possible. The more I listen to Johnson, and I've listened for 30 years now, the surer I am that he is a crucial American artist, whose work invites comparison with our greatest novelists, poets, visual artists and composers.

In the 60's, writers tended to see Johnson as sui generis, an isolated visionary. Since then, we've acquired a nuanced understanding of the blues style that flowered in northwestern Mississippi and eastern Arkansas in the 20's and 30's. Far from developing in isolation, say a number of contemporary researchers, Johnson was very much part of a tradition: the Mississippi Delta blues.

Indeed, the extent to which Johnson absorbed the styles of earlier bluesmen is only now being appreciated. But to listen to Johnson's precursors — Charley Patton, Son House and others — and then to Johnson is to become aware of an unbridgeable gulf, the distance between mastery and genius. Patton and House were of the Delta blues tradition; Johnson rose above it. The music of Patton, House or Skip James seems to issue from a distant time and place. Johnson sounds utterly contemporary — rather, timeless. For what you hear in Johnson's music is the same naked confrontation with the cosmos, with the awful, elemental facts of love, betrayal, isolation and death, that you find in all great art. Creators like Johnson may build on tradition, but at transcendent moments they kick it away; it becomes irrelevant, and their pure, urgent message burns through.

Listen to the first stanza of "Crossroads Blues." Johnson walks down to a country crossroads, looking to hitch a ride. Does he stick out his thumb? No, he flings himself on his knees, "asked the Lord above, 'Have mercy, Save poor Bob if you please.'" It's an image of the most desperate supplication, which could easily turn into fist-shaking rage: at God, the universe, fate. The lyrics, moreover, do only half the job; Johnson's knife-like bottleneck-guitar lines screw the intensity level a notch higher.

Against powerful evidence, like "Crossroads Blues," a few recent

writers have tried to reduce Johnson entirely to his influences. The work of the blues historian Stephen Calt typifies this crude reductionism. In Mr. Calt's liner notes to an otherwise useful album, "The Roots of Robert Johnson," almost every Johnson song is seen as an appropriation (and as often as not, an inferior one) of an earlier tune. "If I Had Possession Over Judgment Day" is nothing but a "rendition" of the old dance tune "Rollin' and Tumblin'" and "Hellbound on My Trail" a mere "version" of Skip James's "Devil Got My Woman."

All Delta bluesmen, Johnson included, shared a floating stock of lyrics, melodies and rhythmic figures. The magnificent (and magnificently titled) "If I Had Possession Over Judgment Day" indeed takes its skeletal form, and even some of its lyrics, from "Rollin' and Tumblin'" but the result, in its apocalyptic fury, is irreducibly Johnson's. "Hellbound on My Trail" may or may not be based on "Devil Got My Woman"; regardless, it travels its own chilling path. What Mr. Calt misses entirely, in other words, is the inner fire that lights Johnson's music (a failure that is cause for concern, since Mr. Calt is writing a full-length Johnson biography; when it appears, it will be the first). Woody Guthrie built his songs on earlier ones too, but nobody would call "This Land Is Your Land" a rendition of "You Are My Sunshine." The interesting question is not what makes Robert Johnson's music the same as his forebears', but what makes it different.

Johnson's fame has always rested largely on extramusical grounds: his short life, its lurid end (he was reputedly poisoned by a jealous husband) and, above all, the legend that he bargained with Satan for his talent. The myth of Johnson's deal with the Devil may deliver a trisyllable to the casual curiosity, but it tells us next to nothing about his music. To rural Mississippians in the 30's, all musicians who practiced their craft outside the church were in league with Satan. Johnson may well have advertised an intimacy with Satan as a way of impressing superstitious locals — plenty of bluesmen did. Of much greater interest is how his few recourses to supernatural imagery work as metaphor, as instances of the artful way Johnson packed his



Robert Johnson was an unschooled hobo. How did he create music of such power and nuance?

songs with layers of meaning. It doesn't even matter whether Johnson himself believed in the Devil; a lyric like "Me and the Devil Was walking side by side" endures as a beautifully terse image for the divided soul, unable to choose between good and evil.

Almost as ritually repeated as the notion of Johnson as a latter-day Faust is the idea that he was somehow the first rock-and-roller. Rock critics' efforts to see Johnson as a sort of proto-James Dean, an outcast rebel with a guitar, have little substance. The rock-and-roller rebel is an icon born of postwar, urban affluence. The personal and cultural rebellion that the figure embodied was impossible, even in embryonic form, to an African-American of Johnson's time and place. He moved through a world of plantations and sharecroppers, where flaunting the social order was not an option; the only choice was between total conformity and swift punishment. It's true that the itinerant bluesman, stumbling his nose at respectability, was a sort of rebel within the black community.

But Johnson certainly wasn't unique in this sense. One might as well call Charley Patton or Blind Lemon Jefferson the first rock-and-roller.

Musically, claims of Johnson's impact on rock make a bit more sense. He was, if not the first, one of the first blues guitarists to use a technique adapted from boogie-woogie piano: the so-called boogie bass, with which he propels tunes like "Ramblin' on My Mind" and "I Believe I'll Dust My Broom." In the hands of guitarists like Elmore James, Johnson's boogie shuffle became a staple of 50's Chicago blues. Appropriated by white blues enthusiasts of the 60's, the technique found its way into blues-based rock bands like Canned Heat and ZZ Top.

But take the boogie bass out of Johnson, and you're still left with his greatest songs: "If I Had Possession Over Judgment Day," "Crossroads Blues," "Terraplane Blues" and a half-dozen others. Johnson's boogie tunes are fine, jaunty blues, but they lack the hair-raising intensity, the reverberating layers of meaning, of his finest work. To focus on Johnson's impact on rock is to miss what makes his art compelling.

Appreciating Johnson's art is easy (once you've seen through the myths and fallacies); understanding its genesis is not. The latter effort will always involve a paradox: perceiving the boundaries — the crossroads, if you will — that our understanding can't penetrate. What we're left with is a mystery: How did a child of penance, an ignorant hobo, create music of such nuance and power? How can a few scratchy old records, cut for an audience that no longer exists, vault so far beyond their original nexus and appeal to the ages?

Call it the riddle of genius. To rephrase the point: folk music is not necessarily primitive. Underestimating its complexity is a mistake. "Folk music," Bob Dylan once said, "is the only music where it isn't simple." And he certainly knows his Robert Johnson. There, tucked away in the jacket photo of the great Dylan album "Bringing It All Back Home," is a copy of Johnson's even greater "King of the Delta Blues Singers."

As Great as Beethoven?

By PAUL GRIFFITHS

WHEN the French composer Jean Barraqué died in 1973, at 43, he left behind a tiny body of work and an enormous reputation. According to the version of 20th-century musical history put forward by André Hodeir in his book "Since Debussy," in 1961, Barraqué, though he had written just four works at the time, delivered the promises that had been only partly fulfilled by Schoenberg, Stravinsky, Messiaen and Pierre Boulez.

This accolade brought him notoriety, and a paragraph in Time magazine, but it probably caused him little embarrassment, because it coincided pretty well with his own estimate of his worth. In the few interviews he gave, he kept coming back to the necessity of greatness. There was no room now, he felt, for minor masters: the game of music had to be played for ultimate stakes. And though he never quite said so directly, he strongly implied that he judged himself — and demanded to be judged — at the level of the few composers who for him were the absolute greats: Bach, Beethoven, Schubert and Debussy.

Whether he can be placed in their ranks, only time — not Time — will tell, but it will never tell unless it is asked the question, and it cannot be asked the question unless Barraqué's works are in the forum of debate. Since his death the question has never quite gone away, but performances have been rare (as they always will be, given the difficulty of his music), and only one recording appeared on CD before this year: a coupling of his two last works — the Concerto for Clarinet, Violoncello and Six Trios, and "Time Restored" ("Le Temps Restitué"), for soprano, chorus and orchestra — in good performances conducted by Paul Meanno on Harmonia Mundi France. Now the composer's complete output of seven works is available (CPO 999 569; three CDs), and the debate can properly continue.

More to the point, the listening can continue. The new recording performances, by the excellent Klangforum Wien and associated musicians, all have many virtues, enough to meet the occasion, even if only one of these performances — that of "Song After Song" ("Chant Après Chant"), for soprano, piano and percussion ensemble — is as thoroughly compelling as Barraqué's music requires.

This is part of what separates Barraqué from nearly all of his contemporaries: the urgency with which his music goes forward, through what



Jean Barraqué, in 1960.

ever frenzy or chaos of disintegration. He accepted all the absences music had acquired by 1950 — absence of tonality, absence of stable pulse or meter, absence of definable formal shape, absence of historical resonance or measure — but he never accepted absence of meaning. Indeed, each of his works is a rush after meaning: a rush that has to go on and on, because once any meaning has begun to be formulated it must immediately be discarded. In "Song After Song," one meets that rush at full tilt, thanks most of all to the conducting of Peter Rundel and the playing of the unnamed pianist.

"Song After Song" is rich in delectable sound, again a Barraqué characteristic. Like his other vocal works — "Sequence," "Beyond Chance" ("Au Delà du Hasard") and "Time Restored" — it has a strong percussive component (as does his tape music Etude), and the rolling waves of drums and metal instruments evoke the sea off Brittany, the place he most loved. His music's restlessness is also that of the sea, as are its calm, distance and illumination.

But most of all, the restlessness is one of feeling and thought. Barraqué's music exists in an almost perpetual state of exhilaration, fear and desperation. And thought races on in his music quite simply because there is nowhere for it to stop. It can lurch onto a single note for a moment, and many of the most memorable passages in Barraqué are these places of radiant unison or tentative agreement among instruments. But to affirm anything larger than a note — a motif, a harmony — would be to risk the illusion of restoring past certainties, and this Barraqué could never tolerate. Long before the young neo-Romantics of the 1970's, he felt the need for music to be expansive, but he got there without aping the habits of former times.

More than observance of musical history is at stake here, though. Most young composers in the 1950's and

60's were convinced that they had to make a fresh start. What distinguished Barraqué was his sense that not only musical values but also general human values had been called into question, and that his vocation as a composer was to bear witness to the questioning, even if there was no possibility of an answer's being found. The search through "Song After Song" is the search for a frame within which the self can identify itself. Time races and rages on; all seems to be flux. Yet we hear a voice — the voice of the soprano, which might be an image of the voice we hear inside our heads — surviving the storm.

In the concerto, with no human voice and no percussion, the central persona is that of the clarinet, which is often at once declamatory and lyrical in the manner of Barraqué's soprano parts, but can also be clownish. Again, the issues are those of self-definition and relating to others. At first the clarinet is silent, and the piece skids off as a rapturous fantasy for strings, the three bowed instruments (violin, viola, cello) eventually joined by harp, harpsichord and guitar. When the clarinet does appear, it seems to be seeking a response from the orchestra of 19 soloists, a response that comes almost perfectly, if briefly, from the English horn.

The concerto is, again, full of glorious sounds, and the slow performance here allows them their generous space. Anyone new to Barraqué should start with "Song After Song" and this piece. Ernesto Molinari is the highly effective soloist. Barraqué's other purely instrumental work, the Piano Sonata, is also given a slow performance, by Stefan Litwin, whose approach can be justified: Barraqué defined the tempos of the sonata only in relative terms, and there are musical advantages in extension. One hears every note and can follow how Barraqué often uses Webern's motive technique to create a kind of Penelope's web, where every thematic idea is unpicked by what immediately follows. In addition, the entanglement of the passages in static harmony is possibly more telling. But missing is the clamorous intensity and the sense of danger that comes only from speed.

The sonata will no doubt be recorded again, and Barraqué's larger works really call out to be experienced live: this is public music, made to speak to an audience. Even so, the new recordings at last give us all access to what is, at the least, some of the most remarkable music of the last half-century.

COUNTDOWN

By CHARLES DEBER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 God "the most merciful"
- 6 Bird of myth
- 9 Slanted: Abbr.
- 13 Blacksmith's tools
- 18 Prefix with grain
- 19 Show presenter, for short
- 20 Pioneering Russian spacecraft series
- 21 Lawn game
- 22 Sight off the coast of Salerno
- 24 Bugs
- 25 Be creative
- 26 Spanish weeks
- 27 Expo '70 host
- 29 Saw red
- 30 Last-minute ticket acquirer, maybe
- 31 "Well done!"
- 32 Broadly
- 34 Certain annuity plan
- 36 1956, e.g., in fancy language
- 41 Piglike animals
- 44 Cleveland team, for short
- 46 Minneapolis-to-Fargo hwy.
- 47 Man, in old Rome
- 48 Rock's Burdon and Carmen
- 49 Transmit via computer
- 50 Seventh-century life
- 51 Some porcelain
- 53 Worker
- 54 Math ratio
- 55 Orchestra member
- 56 Gulf of — (arm of the Baltic)
- 59 No longer in enemy hands
- 62 Heather lands
- 63 Footnote word
- 64 A new look at an 18th-century English writer
- 69 Fabric with nubby yarn
- 72 First name in stand-up
- 73 Big name in computer games
- 77 Like a wayward G.I.
- 78 Nautical passageway
- 80 Bustles
- 82 Mouths
- 83 "From Here to Eternity" wife
- 85 Oil driller's snup
- 86 On again
- 88 Sing like Bing
- 90 Non-P.C. suffix
- 91 Express
- 93 Institution since 1701
- 94 Close and Ford
- 95 Nurses and police officers, e.g.
- 96 Neighbors of Ethiopians
- 100 Enemies of the Iroquois
- 101 Consider, with "over"
- 103 Kind of set

DOWN

- 1 Collect
- 2 "12 Angry Men" director
- 3 Pack animal
- 4 Monopoly avenue next to the B.O. Railroad
- 5 Sellers of record players
- 6 Brownish
- 7 Sugar ending
- 8 Feature of classical architecture
- 9 Kind of artery
- 10 Bomb
- 11 "Crazy Love" singer
- 12 Song syllables
- 13 Vases of a "La Bohème" character
- 14 — radical
- 15 Fast shuffle, so to speak
- 16 Sandwich base
- 17 Very beginning
- 21 Item that's often snubbed
- 23 Composer Saint
- 28 Not a good person with secrets
- 32 Democrats fight it
- 33 "— long."
- 35 Representation
- 37 Writer Welty
- 38 Roundish
- 39 Forehead feature
- 40 Source of an omen, maybe
- 41 Zoom
- 42 Drury Lane composer of the 1700's
- 43 The Panthers of the Big East Conference
- 45 Success for a returning space shuttle
- 48 "Do you —?"
- 52 Target of many a wound
- 54 1991-92 U.S. Open champ
- 56 Not streamlined
- 57 Parts of 89-Down
- 60 Catlike
- 61 — Tikl
- 62 Tiny model
- 64 Casey of County General Hospital
- 66 Pilgrimage sites
- 67 Lean

ACROSS

- 18 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123

DOWN

- 68 Berlin's "— Lost in His Arms"
- 69 See 57-Down
- 70 Soaked
- 71 Sculpture subjects
- 74 In a minute
- 75 Maker of a brand name?
- 76 Lacking
- 79 Early wheels
- 80 O.K.
- 81 Per —
- 84 Insouciant
- 87 Chart holder
- 88 The 1990's, politically speaking
- 89 Vintner's cache
- 92 William or Henry
- 94 Sparkle
- 96 Weak
- 97 Train
- 99 Carol starter
- 102 Mountains, so to speak
- 104 "Difficult years"
- 105 Position
- 106 Met singer Simon
- 107 Kirk, e.g.: Abbr.
- 108 Straight, after "in"
- 109 Low tract
- 110 Recovering from a charity horse
- 113 Overtime
- 115 Dory feature

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

COLD ASAP LAID ACBS
OTERI SHOTE ERMO DEAN
BRAINUFFIN BOSQ HERA
ASFLAT ACHESORDERED
TART LEAR AROSE
LACEYCOMENONE ADDET
ODOR NOLAN SHIP TAR
GASSED BLUEFRAGSSTATE
OFT YEASES OATES APD
STASHED RITU STENS
VOWANWITHAPASTE
INGAS ORTO WHEREOF
PERF RADII ELINOR DLI
STAINEDUPCONIC REGINE
ASL IDOS RIZET ONAN
KOSIR SALTATROUSAND
ALICEAPES JNPS
ONIA AINT THEYTHNAME
ICOR TOOL LIANS DENIS
LETS ONNE ONLY REDO

'Parents don't matter so much'

Psychologists are seething over a new book that claims Mom and Dad have little impact on their children's development. Others hail grandmother Judith Rich Harris as a trailblazer, Peter Jenson writes

To the guilty parent who frets over the latest advice about quality time, instilling values or toilet training, Judith Rich Harris offers this relief: Mom and Dad, you don't matter that much.

Hmm, is that good news or bad? It's certainly controversial, and Harris, a northern New Jersey grandmother, is already feeling the heat from psychologists and child-development experts outraged by her views.

"I seem to have hit a nerve," says Harris, a textbook writer kicked out of Harvard's psychology department four decades ago because the chairman thought her graduate work lacked originality and independence.

Her book, *The Nurture Assumption: Why Children Turn Out the Way They Do* (The Free Press, 1998), certainly challenges conventional wisdom and, the author concedes, is counter-intuitive. But her goal is to do nothing less than fundamentally change the direction of child psychology, and she expects a little ego bruising.

Since it landed in bookstores last month, the book already has sold more than 50,000 copies and should soon make it to the best-seller list. A cover story in *Newsweek*, a major article in the *New Yorker*, a scheduled appearance on the NBC's *Today* show, and possibly one on *Oprah*, could send it vaulting even higher.

Meanwhile, the child psychology establishment is in serious backlash mode. "My first reaction is amazement that this book should be taken seriously," says Urie Bronfenbrenner, professor emeritus at Cornell University and a leading figure in developmental science. "We've got a blooper."

"I don't see a constructive fallout from this," said Johanna K. Tablin, a suburban Chicago psychologist, "other than a helpful fallout for Harris."

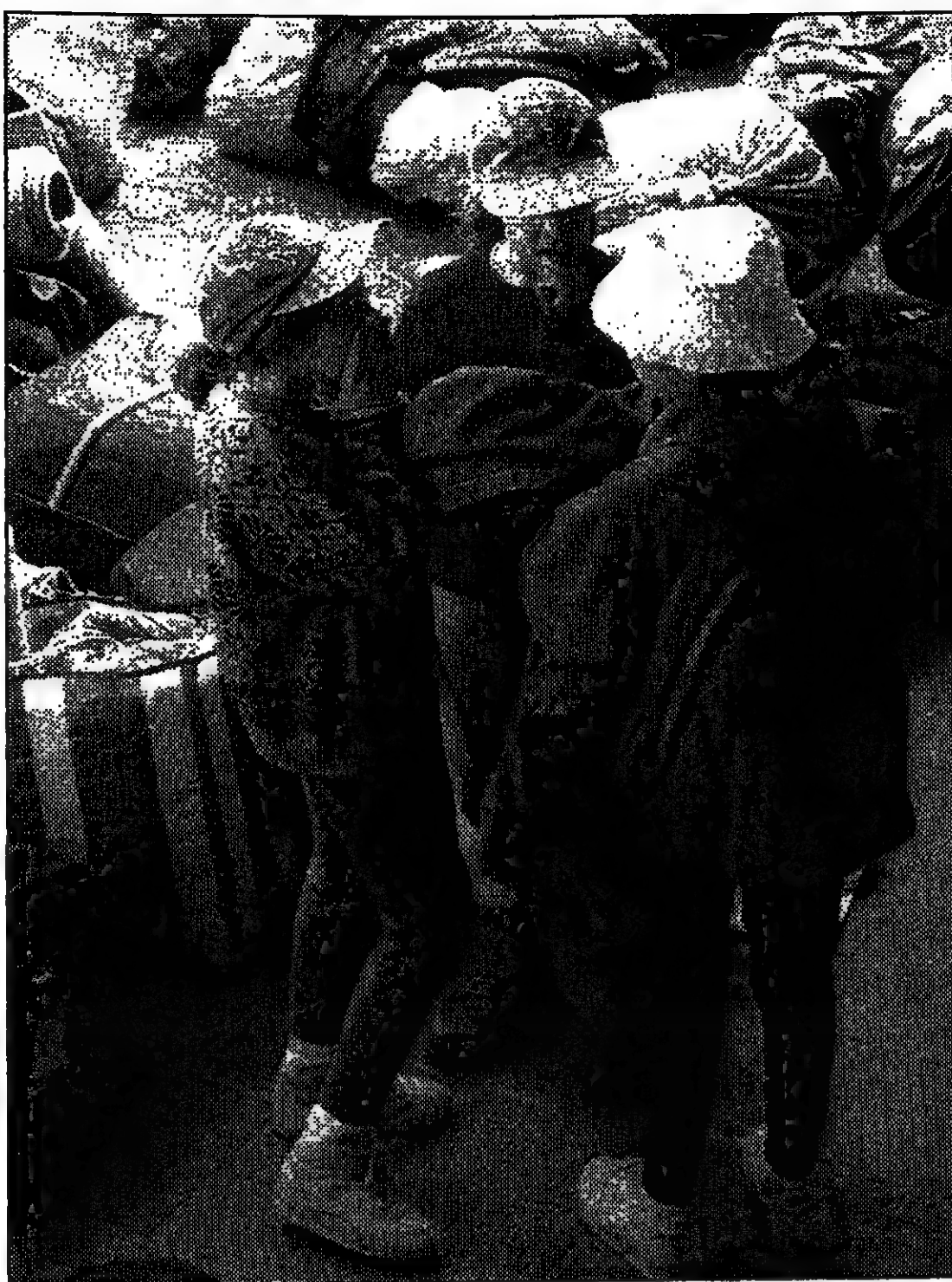
What Harris proposes is nothing short of breathtaking: Other than providing genes and the basic essentials such as food and shelter (and unless they are abusive or negligent), parents are not the most important influence on their children's lives.

What runs contrary to almost everything the advice-givers have been telling parents for much of this century — not to mention countering the Freudians, who see personality traits as veritable parental hand-me-downs.

Instead, Harris points to the impact of peer groups, which she believes psychologists have long underestimated. Is the average second-grader likely to prefer the sneakers a parent favors, or the kind the fellow second-graders wear? With no academic affiliation or doctorate degree beside her name, her ideas might be easily dismissed, but Harris has done some serious research in psychology, sociology and anthropology, backing her theory with dozens of articles and studies. (Her reference list takes up 31 of the book's 460 pages.) She also has the wit to write about them in a breezy and entertaining manner.

"My position is that teenagers belong to the same species as the rest of us," Harris writes of adolescents in one chapter. "But one cannot help but wonder. If they are equipped with the same sort of brain as the rest of us, why do they so often give the impression of having forgotten how to use it?"

Harris must be pardoned if she still has a little frustration with



Harris believes peer pressure is paramount.

teenagers. Her own daughters behaved so differently from each other when they were growing up, it made her question her own influence on them.

Her oldest, Nomi, was an achiever. The younger, Elaine, who was adopted, dropped out of high school. Meanwhile, Harris spent much of their teen years stuck in bed, disabled by an autoimmune disease that has systematically attacked her internal organs, leaving her weakened and often homebound.

But Harris, 60, is adamant that her own experience, while instructive, was not the basis for her the-

ory, and she resents how some writers have already exaggerated her ideas and dissected her own life.

"What I acquired from my expe-

Harris is critical of researchers who are too quick to make a correlation between child behavior and parental influence — hence, the title of her book, *The Nurture Assumption*.

An example: Theoreticians once thought autism was caused by cold, aloof parents, not realizing that parents may have been reacting to autistic children, children who didn't want to be

touched or held. The implications of this idea could be profound. One example is in divorce and the observation that children of divorced parents generally have more problems in

life. But is that the result of the emotional tumult of divorce or the psychic wounds caused by an enforced separation from one parent? Harris suspects none of the above. First, there's the higher likelihood that children of divorced parents may have inherited their parents' own genetic behavior problems. Then, there's the loss of financial security and the likelihood the child had to move — and develop a whole new peer group.

Any parent of a teenager can tell you about a peer group's pervasive power over a 15-year-old, but what about the impact on a toddler or pre-schooler? Harris says just look at their behavior.

Children always seek out other children in a social setting, even as toddlers. Their interactions in school can be profoundly different from their behavior at home. How often do parents hear a teacher's report on their child and wonder aloud, "Are we talking about the same kid?"

In a playful analogy of childhood to prison, Harris compares children to prisoners and parents to guards. "A child's goal is not to become a successful adult, any more than a prisoner's goal is to become a successful guard," she writes. "A child's goal is to become a successful child."

DESPITE the controversy, Harris's ideas have received impressive endorsements, most notably from Steven Pinker, a well-regarded Massachusetts Institute of Technology psychology professor who writes effusively in the book's forward, "I predict it will come to be seen as a turning point in the history of psychology."

The book's release coincided with the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association last month in San Francisco, where Harris was honored for a recent paper. It included an irony she savors: Her award was named after the Harvard professor who kicked her out so long ago.

But even Harris concedes that in her parents-vs.-peers argument, she has overstated her case at times with some "extreme statements." She calls them partly a "literary device" to draw in lay readers.

Dr. Mark A. Riddle, director of child and adolescent psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore, says her all-or-nothing stance on parental influence is reminiscent of nature-vs.-nurture arguments over IQ. Almost everyone in the child-development field believes the truth lies between the extremes.

"Yes, some theoreticians have placed too much emphasis on parenting," Riddle said. "It's also true she's placed too much emphasis on peer groups."

Harris brushes aside most of the criticism from the academic establishment — if only because most of them have not read her book. Even if she fails to convince the experts, she sees another purpose to her work: allowing parents to feel a little less pressured about how they raise their children.

"I really agree with Dr. Spock on this. You know more about parenting than you think you do," she says. "Parents are provided by nature with instinctive behavior on how to raise children. We did it for hundreds of thousands of generations without guidance from experts, and they turned out OK." (The Baltimore Sun)



Sharing the magic of a story: Sometimes only grandpa or grandma can make a child feel secure.

The gift of being 'grand'

By BETTIJANE LEVINE

So now you're a grandparent. You think you're prepared for this, having raised at least one child already. You're ready to sit back and... what? Enjoy the adorableness of your grandchildren?

Lots of luck. Not in the 1990s.

Family life has become so perilous for so many that merely enjoying the offspring of your off-

spring is not nearly enough. Your grandchildren need you. Not just your money or baby-sitting skills, but very important qualities that perhaps no one else in the family can provide.

Maybe you've had the feeling yourself — that something is missing in the grandchildren's lives, because the parents are both working, or divorced, or worse, suffering from problems (parental drug abuse, collapse of the health care system) that you never could have imagined a few years back.

How can you help? Take a look at *The Essential Grandparent: A Guide to Making a Difference*, by Dr. Lillian Carson (Health Communications Inc., 217 pages, \$10.95). This paperback guide explains the crucial difference a grandparent can make in a child's life.

One of the most distinctive contributions, the author says, is a grandparent's unconditional love and acceptance. "Like sale merchandise that is marked 'as is,' grandchildren need to be accepted with whatever imperfections they may

have." This has nothing to do with being permissive, or coddling, but rather with offering a "center of strength" for children who may not find it anywhere else.

Grandparents are also role models, Carson writes, and those who live their own lives with energy and purpose can signal hope for the future; they send a message that life can get better as the years pass.

As a grandparent, you are a connection to the past — and that can be empowering and comforting to a grandchild. The author explains how you can cement that connection ("believe you can make a difference... take risks in your grandparenting relationship").

And then there is the "stability and security" factor that, in many families, only grandparents can provide. Carson explains why, and tells how to make the most out of what you have to offer.

She also offers dos and don'ts for every occasion, tells how not to interfere, charts the stages of a child's life cycle, and even offers phrases to use so children will feel the enduring impact of love and care. There's a list of age-appropriate books for grandkids, and a gift list, too.

This is not a source book for grandparents who need social services or heavy-duty help in caring for grandchildren in their charge. It is, instead, a perfect reinforcement for traditional grandmas and grandpas who realize that there is no such thing as traditional anymore. (Los Angeles Times)

Viper on the screen, or snake in the grass?



By Ruth Mason

Whenever we hear or read anything about computers in our schools, the subject is usually the dearth of them, the fact that we need more, or that children should be exposed to them at a younger age. The assumption that computers belong in the classroom is rarely questioned.

But some people are arguing that the new technologies made available through the computer are being overused, and that our children are the losers as a result.

Stephen Talbot, editor of a free Internet magazine called *Neijature* (<http://www.oreilly.com/~steve/neijature>) is one such voice. The topical index on the site lists a variety of articles on computers and education for those who want to explore the subject further.

One place where teachers might be most tempted to use CD-ROMS or video footage is in science or nature study classes. After all, if you can bring the majesty of the Sahara Desert or the intricacies of

an ant's world into your classroom, why not do it?

In answer to that question, Talbot quotes a true story written by Barry Angell, the father of an 11-year-old boy.

"Yesterday my son and I were hiking in a remote wood. He was leading. He spotted a four-foot rattlesnake in the trail about six feet in front of us. We watched it for quite some time before going around it. "When we were on the way home, he commented that this was the best day of his life. He was justifiably proud of the fact that he had been paying attention and had thus averted an accident, and that he had been able to observe this powerful, beautiful and sinister snake."

Angell goes on to ask: "I wonder how many armchair nature-watchers have seen these dangerous snakes on the tube and said, 'This is the best day of my life.'"

He concludes, "Better one rattlesnake on the trail than a whole menagerie of gorillas, lions and elephants on the screen."

FROM this story it is easy to recognize the dramatic difference between life on the trail and virtual life on the screen for the child, Talbot writes in the education journal, *Renewal* (3911 Bannister Road, Fair Oaks, California, 95628 USA, or awsna@igc.apc.org).

Talbot argues that this difference has profound implications for education.

If Angell's son had encountered the snake on a CD-ROM, "he

would not be at risk of spraining a toe against the exposed roots in the trail. He would not find the tree trunks rough and creviced, but rather smooth as glass. The musty smell of moss and pregnant decay would not greet him.

"That fullness of being... would not be there for the little boy. The slithering snake consciousness that looked out through those baleful, unblinking eyes on the trail do not look out through the illuminated pixels on this screen," Talbot writes.

On the trail, Talbot maintains, the boy met a part of his personal destiny — a destiny that might have turned out differently had he not been as sharp in his observations.

"If education is about anything at all, it is about helping us to meet, understand, embrace and enlarge our destinies," Talbot writes.

And for this, children also need living, breathing teachers. The father's feelings during the experience — of wonder, curiosity and a respect for the snake's beauty and power — helped shape the boy's experience.

The boy learned about the snake by seeing his image, not upon a screen, but as reflected in the response of a living teacher," Talbot writes.

TO further back up his stand, Talbot cites research on the backgrounds of those who choose careers that show a concern for the natural world, such as ecologists, naturalists and environmentalists.

Two of the most important influences on these people were an exposure to wild places as children and the availability of adult mentors. (For a review of the literature, see "Significant Life Experiences Revisited: A Review of Research on Sources on Environmental Sensitivity," by Louise Chawla, forthcoming in the *Journal of Environmental Education*.)

The findings, Talbot writes, "raise serious questions about today's powerful drive toward technology-mediated education."

What do you remember from all your years at school? Chances are that what's stuck with you is a

book read to you, chapter by chapter, by your sixth grade teacher, or being turned on to literature in junior high by a teacher who acted out the part of Grendel, or beginning to re-evaluate your faith in your government because you were inspired by a 10th-grade civics teacher who taught you the value of asking critical questions.

It is not so much content that stays with us then, it is experience, our inner connection to the matter at hand. And the experience needs to be direct, not mediated by technology.

Inner connection can be facilitated by a caring adult. It cannot be facilitated by a machine.

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ends at 2,632 games

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SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER - League Cup second round, second leg results last night: Birmingham 6, Macclesfield 6 (Birmingham win 9-0 on aggregate); Bradford 3, Halifax 1 (Bradford win 5-2); Cambridge 1, Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Cambridge win 2-1); Charlton 1, Queens Park Rangers 0 (Charlton win 3-0); Chester 0, Sunderland 1 (Sunderland win 4-0); Chesterfield 1, Leicester City 3 (Leicester win 6-1); Crewe 2, Bristol City 0 (Crewe win 3-1); Grimsby 2, Sheffield United 0, after extra time (Grimsby win 3-2); Hull 2, Bolton 3 (Bolton win 6-3); Luton 4, Ipswich 2, after extra time (Luton win 5-4); Nottingham Forest 0, Leyton Orient 0 (Nottingham Forest win 5-1); Southend 0, Coventry City 4 (Coventry win 5-0); Tranmere 3, Blackpool 1 (Tranmere win 4-3); West Ham United 1, Northampton 0 (Northampton win 2-1); Wigan 2, Norwich 3 (Norwich win 4-2); Wimbledon 4, Portsmouth 1, after extra time (Wimbledon win 5-3); Wolverhampton 1, Bournemouth 2 (Bournemouth win 3-2); Wycombe 1, Middlesbrough 1 (Middlesbrough win 3-1).

Flo-Jo dead at 38

World's fastest woman ends life as she spent it - in controversy

LONDON (Reuters) - Florence Griffith Joyner did not go gentle into the good night, finishing her life in the way she spent much of it - with controversy and accusations flying at her heels.

Within hours of Monday's announcement that the world's fastest woman had died of an apparent heart seizure at just 38, athletics was again discussing the suspicions of drug abuse that hovered over her career.

It was inevitable. News that a woman who produced superhuman times over 100 and 200 meters in 1988 had died, when some of her rivals were still competing or had just retired, was a shock.

In life, Griffith Joyner attracted attention with her long fingernails, bright, skin-tight suits and extraordinary speed.

In death the Seoul Olympics sprint queen will remain the subject of much speculation.

Leading officials paid tribute to an athlete whose performances are unlikely to be matched for some time.

"I will never forget this extraordinary athlete who stunned the world in Seoul, 10 years ago, with her amazing sprints and spectacular outfits," International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) chief Primo Nebiolo said.

"Sadly her life has passed as rapidly as her races."

But some of today's sprinters, still unable to approach Griffith Joyner's amazing world records of 10.49 and 21.34 for the sprints, were quick to point the finger of suspicion at the American.

"I'm sorry, but there was always a very strong rumor she was on something - everyone always talked about it," said Australian Tania Van-Her, a medalist at the Commonwealth Games which have just finished in Kuala Lumpur.

"I'm sorry for her family, but she didn't think about them too much. I'm sick of getting my arse kicked when it's only because I'm not on anything."

Xavier Sturbis, deputy chairman of Belgium's Olympic Committee and chairman of its medical commission, said her death could have an impact on attitudes in athletics.

"It's certainly a shock but it is also something that could happen again because, without lingering over this case of this woman I don't know from a medical point of view, it's clear that using doping products could lead to this kind of accident," Sturbis said.

"And when such accidents happen, everybody is surprised or everybody



IN HER PRIME - Florence Griffith Joyner seen at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

pretends to be surprised although it's been described in (medical) literature for quite a few years," he said.

"Athletes, as well as coaches and (sports) leaders will certainly draw lessons from this death and they will cease to manipulate substances to the detriment of their athletes' health."

For several years now there have been suggestions some athletes have been dying young or suffering severe ill-health because of the effects of performance-enhancing drugs.

Swedish commentator Torbjorn Petersson said Griffith-Joyner's death reminded him of Swedish discus throwers Goran Svensson and Stefan Thelholm who died aged 36

and 37 respectively. "Both the Swedish discus throwers became entrenched in pill abuse and a dependence which eventually took their lives," he said.

"Unfortunately this can just be the beginning."

More "unexplainable" deaths can't be ruled out, each one of which adds to the suspicion that pill abuse has caught up with our elite athletes. That is a chilling thought.

It was the physical changes to Griffith Joyner in the latter part of her career that caused a great deal of suspicion. But she was never caught cheating with drugs and always denied taking drugs such as steroids or human growth hormones.

Jacques Piasenta, coach of European 100m champion Christine Arron, said: "From 1984 to 1987 at UCLA (in Los Angeles) I watched her train among other athletes. To me, she was then just a good sprinter, nothing more."

Her genetic potential was less than that of (Marie-Jo) Pécé or (Marlies) Jones, for example. Then she passed, I saw her build change at an astonishing rate. With her times, she could almost get into the men's 4x100m. That's surprising, for sure. I was evidently suspicious, but I didn't have any formal proof of doping. And then who's to say that her death was due to doping?"

Court dismisses Ben Johnson's
appeal for reinstatement

TORONTO (AP) - An appeals court on Monday dismissed sprinter Ben Johnson's bid to lift his lifetime ban so he could compete again.

The ban was imposed after a track meet in 1993, when Johnson tested positive a second time for using a banned steroid. He had been suspended for two years after testing positive for steroids at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, when he was stripped of his gold medal and a 100-meter world record of 9.79.

France's Noah
predicts difficult Davis
Cup tie against Israel

By HEATHER CHAIT

"We're ready for a difficult match," declared French Davis Cup captain Yannick Noah yesterday, three days before the tie against Israel begins on Friday at Ramat Hasharon.

"The Israeli team has loads of talent and potential and can be dangerous," he added, "if we don't play at our full potential, we can lose this tie."

Local believers may take heart from Noah's words but France's No. 1 player, Cedric Pioline, 17 in the ATP Tour rankings, had a different, more explicit message. "We're the favorites, we have more experience," he said.

Nicolas Escude (39), who with Pioline played in the semi-finals of last week's \$500,000 President's Cup in Tashkent (where they lost to Yevgeny Kafelnikov and eventual winner Tim Henman respectively), was also hiding nothing. "I'm very pleased with my tennis right now," he said, confidently.

Noah was not prepared to name his singles players but did say that in the past, France had a fixed doubles pairing while the present squad is made up predominantly of singles players. "They all play doubles but there is not a consistent team," he said.

Guillaume Raoux (45), who lost in doubles play this year to Eyal Erlich and Noam Behr, said he was not expecting an easy tie but that their motivation was high.

Motivation is a term which peppers Noah's conversation. In his last outing as captain of France's Davis Cup team, he sees his function in an unusual light. "My motivation is naturally to win games but the biggest challenge is to have team spirit and a real friendship between the players. This is the goal. At the end of seven years the most important thing is to make sure that I was not only the captain but also a friend," he said.

It is this sense of loyalty which led Noah to overlook France's No. 2 player, Fabrice Santoro (32) for the tie. "In the first match in the B division, after we'd lost to Belgium in the World Group, Santoro chose to join an exhibition match instead of joining the squad. His priorities were elsewhere. I need my players to come and do everything for the team," said the captain.

Noah, 38 years old with a personal best ranking of three in 1986, now intends to spend more time with his family. "It's been a lot of fun but I'm putting my priorities elsewhere now," he said. "I don't know about the future, I'm better at remembering the past."

Sampras, Rafter pull out of
Grand Slam Cup

MUNICH (Reuters) - World No. 1 Pete Sampras and US Open champion Patrick Rafter have both pulled out of next week's lucrative Grand Slam Cup, organizers said yesterday.

Also missing from the \$6.7 million event, which brings together the best performers from the year's four grand slams, will be French Open champion Carlos Moya of Spain, the world No. 5.

The highest-ranked player in the men's draw will be world No. 3 Marcelo Rios of Chile. Five of the world's top 10 players will be in

Munich, among them No. 8 Andre Agassi who had a dismal grand slam season but was given a wild card.

The absence of Sampras and Rafter will help shift attention to the women's competition where world No. 1 Martina Hingis and American Lindsay Davenport, who beat the 17-year-old Swiss in the US Open final, are the favorites.

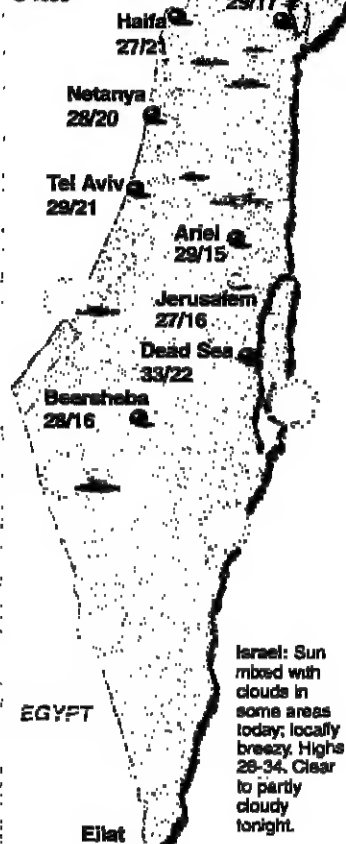
It is the first time women have taken part in the Grand Slam Cup. The tournament starts next Tuesday.

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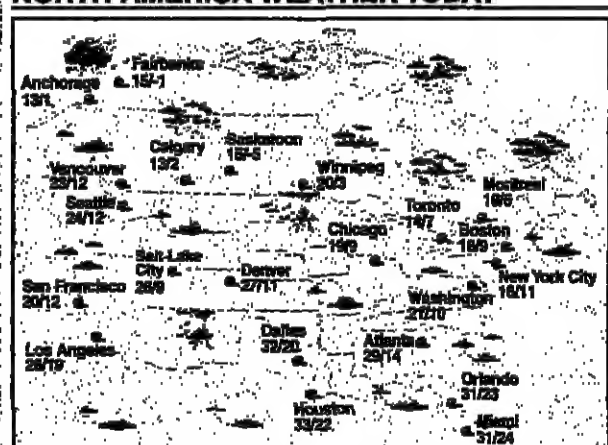
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By RATSHEVA TSELR

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